

March 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting testimony regarding S2078 School Libraries Act. I am a Library Media Specialist for grades 6 through 12. I've been a school librarian 17 years, a secondary school librarian for 16. I asked some of my students how they would feel if their school library were permanently closed. Here are some of their responses:

"I would be sad because where would I go?" - Freshman

"Going to the library is like a break for my mental health." - Freshman

"It's my favorite place to go." - Sophomore

"It's a space you can go to talk to an adult you trust." - Senior

"There's a bunch of different kinds of seating, desks, and couches, so you can find some place comfortable to do your work." - Senior

"It is such a safe place to come in, like if I don't have any friends in my lunch, I can go to the library, it's just a comfortable space to be in if you're having a bad day." - Senior

"If the library weren't available to students, it would be a lack of a quiet, safe space. Like when I had my concussion, Guidance might be too busy, so I was able to catch up on a lot of work in the library." - Junior

"It's a good place to connect to students from other grades who you might not always see, so it helps build a sense of community." - Junior

I do my best to create a welcoming environment with a variety of resources to support students' learning. The library is also the central printing location for students, which means I'm available to troubleshoot any printing issues. I teach my students how to research, think, problem solve, consider alternate perspectives, utilize tech appropriately, and organize and cite their sources. The school library also acts as a space for tutoring or students on alternate learning plans to work or take a break. The library hosts presentations, standardized tests, school committee meetings, parent-teacher conferences, classes, and an alternate lunch location. Library work is never totally done; expectations continue to evolve as needs change. School libraries are uniquely able to support schools in meeting state and national requirements by being a flex space with a K-12 certified school librarian to maximize their usage.

I appreciate your time and your consideration of the importance of school libraries to the children of Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Greer Monaghan, Scituate Middle High School Librarian