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Senate Committee on Education
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

Testimony in favor of the School Libraries Act

- In order to build a responsive library environment, a dedicated certified librarian combines technology with traditional literature which requires consistent presence to manage, curate, and teach! A school without a certified librarian cannot access materials from other libraries to enhance the school curriculum and enable both students and staff to retrieve additional materials that are not available in the school library.
- Fostering Long-Term Relationships & Literacy: A dedicated librarian has the time to get to know students' reading tastes, leading to personalized book recommendations and deeper nurturing of a lifelong love of reading, which is difficult to achieve when only present on certain days.
- Proactive Collection Development: Full-time staff can curate the collection by analyzing specific student needs and teacher curricula in real-time, rather than just managing circulation through the use of reader's advisory and ongoing/updated student and staff surveys.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Leyden MLIS