

From: Joanne Gongoleski <jgongole@nssk12.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 4, 2026 9:17 AM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: Support for S2078 The School Libraries Act

Dear Senate Education Committee,

As a high school librarian, I see every day how essential strong school libraries are to student success. S2078 The School Libraries Act ensures that students across our state have equitable access to certified librarians, diverse collections, and the research skills they need to thrive in college, careers, and civic life.

It is especially important that these positions be filled by certified school librarians. Being a certified librarian means that students are interacting with trained educators who teach information literacy, research skills, digital citizenship, and media evaluation—skills that are critical in today's information landscape and that are ever-evolving in this complex world. We collaborate with classroom teachers, support struggling readers, challenge advanced learners, and create inclusive spaces where all students feel seen and supported.

Investing in supported school libraries and certified school librarians is an investment in literacy, critical thinking, academic achievement, social-emotional wellbeing and equitable opportunity for every Rhode Island student.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joanne M. Gongoleski

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