

From: Martha B. <badigians@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 4:21 PM
To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: Re: School Libraries Act S2078

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I am writing in Support of School Libraries Act S2078.

I recently retired after 25 years as an elementary school librarian in South Kingstown. At a time when many are concerned with reading scores, I can't stress enough the importance of a school librarian. While certainly direct instruction in *how* to read, school libraries help students understand *why* we read. We show our students the fun of literature and books, and create appetites for reading. Additionally, school libraries instruct in information/media literacy, which I think we all know is especially important today. Digital citizenship is a critical part of our instruction as well. We help students navigate the world of information and create appetites for stories and reading. I'd like to see Rhode Island step up in supporting our school libraries, and I know from experience what a positive effect this will have on our students.

Thanks for your consideration of these thoughts.

Sincerely,

Martha Badigian