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Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 8:50 AM

To: SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

Subject: S2525 Ebooks Written Testimony. - Hearing March 4th

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in support of S2525, a bill regarding Ebooks.

Library ebooks and electronic audiobooks are the fastest growing demands by our patrons in Bristol.

Rogers Free Library spends nearly \$10,000 in Ocean State Library fees toward our portion (based on services population) of our shared state e-materials. In addition to these fees, the Town of Bristol has had to increase its budget allocation for e-materials by 275% over the past two years. These increases are not sustainable.

I speak for all library boards when I say that we can no longer afford these exorbitant ebook prices for books that simply disappear.

The licensing terms of these ebooks mean they often expire after 12 or 24 months, or a certain number of checkouts, which then requires us to repurchase these ebooks over and over again, often at the same high prices each time.

There's a misconception that because ebooks are a digital copy, everyone can check them out at the same time.. Our patrons must still use them in a one-checkout-at-a-time manner, so there is no quicker circulation.

We have a robust public library system in RI. People rely on the library to provide reading material that they do not have the extra disposable income to obtain themselves and are being impacted by the long waitlists for their selected titles – sometimes up to nearly a year.

Rogers Free Library Board of Trustees supports passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

Anne Marie Silvia

Chair, Board of Trustees

Rogers Free Library

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