



Community Libraries of Providence

Something worth sharing

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To: **Senate Committee on Education**
Senator Hanna M. Gallo, Chair
Senator Melissa A. Murray, Vice Chair
Senator Samuel D. Zurier, Secretary
Committee Members

FOX POINT 

From: Cheryl Space
Executive Director, Community Libraries of Providence

KNIGHT MEMORIAL 

MOUNT PLEASANT 

Date: March 3, 2026

OLNEYVILLE 

RE: **Support for Senate Bill S2525**

ROCHAMBEAU 

SMITH HILL 

SOUTH PROVIDENCE 

WANSKUCK 

WASHINGTON PARK 

I am writing in support of S2525, *Relating to Commercial Law – General Regulatory Provisions – Library Ebook Contracts*. Libraries are seeking fair pricing for books published in an electronic format by asking the State of Rhode Island to regulate the terms of contracts for electronic resources as this is, primarily, an issue of spending state funds for library materials for RI residents. Access to eBooks, throttled due to unfair licensing and pricing terms, is being unfairly restricted for Rhode Islanders. In the 21st century, more and more people are borrowing electronic materials; library-contracting terms need to offer similar purchasing power to physical materials. The contracts, pricing, and licensing need to be renegotiated catch up to the times. Since this is not happening voluntarily, the State of Rhode Island needs to step in to regulate the contracts.

I am specifically concerned with equal access to literature for those Rhode Islanders who have challenges with reading physical books. Electronic books, customized through selection of font size, brightness, and background color, allow people to adjust the text based on their personal preferences and needs. For those who have trouble supporting the weight of a physical book due to physical limitations, lightweight eBook readers are a comfortable alternative. For people with certain learning disabilities, the ability to listen to an audiobook allows them to participate equally in their education and to enjoy their favorite books.

Access to literature is fundamental to literacy. It's time for eBook pricing to be adjusted, fairly, to allow all Rhode Islanders equal access to books that meet their needs for information and entertainment. Please pass Senate Bill 2525.