



Dear Chair and Representatives,

My name is Joseph Burgio, Director of Rhode Island Atheists. I am writing in SUPPORT of H7575. It is a sign of the times that we need this type of legislation. Rhode Island Atheists applauds the ongoing work by legislators to protect librarians and books in our state.

Rhode Island is one of multiple states across the country being targeted by Christian nationalist organizations. They have launched a coordinated campaign to censor our libraries, interfere with our classrooms, attack teachers and erase diverse identities & perspectives from the educational arena.

Among books being targeted are those including topics related to LGBTQ+ issues, equality, civil rights, religious freedom and white supremacy. This vital and proactive legislation provides much-needed resources to the front lines; where teachers are defending our freedoms and school librarians are fighting to keep books on our shelves. We appreciate the sponsors of this and all bills related to protecting our freedoms and democracy. We hope to see this legislation swiftly passed and enacted. Thank you for your consideration.

Joseph Burgio

Director

Rhode Island Atheists

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