

Testimony in support of H7386: Freedom to Read

Dr. Hans Scholl, 71 Fales Avenue, Barrington, RI 02806

Date of Hearing: February 29, 2024

To Chair Shanley and the honorable Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee:

I support H7386, because

- it protects libraries against attempts to ban, remove, censor or otherwise restrict access to books and other material,
- prohibits materials from being proscribed or removed from public libraries because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval,
- asks that public libraries shall provide an adequate collection of books and other materials sufficient in size and varied in subject matter to satisfy the library needs of the people of their community,
- and clearly states that the practice of banning, removing, censoring or otherwise restricting access to specific books or resources due to partisan or doctrinal disapproval is prohibited.

There is urgency, because we need to strengthen democracy and civil rights, and protect citizens from censorship at this critical juncture in American history, where massive attempts at overthrowing democracy and installing a dictatorship gain momentum. Out of this reason, please bring the bill to a vote in 2024, and don't lose time to secure the bill's protections for us Rhode Islanders.

Thank you very much for considering my input, and thank you to Representative Stewart for introducing this important bill.



Dr. Hans Scholl

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