

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Kate Lentz <kate@ribook.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:52 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Cc:** Rep. Stewart, Jennifer A.  
**Subject:** Testimony in Favor of H7386, The Freedom to Read Act

Kate Lentz  
Director, Rhode Island Center for the Book  
Testimony in favor of H7386, The Freedom to Read Act

I believe it is the responsibility of the state government to support the right of Rhode Islanders to read freely. Rhode Islanders deserve access to a diverse array of reading selections and have the right to make their own reading decisions. I believe that the voices of the few should not limit the choices of the many. Public libraries in our state have existing systems in place to handle concerns about an individual student's reading choices. When pro-censorship individuals and organizations seek to overwhelm these systems and pressure educators and administrators to pull long lists of books from their shelves, the result is soft censorship and an erosion of freedom for Rhode Islanders.

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Kate Lentz  
Director, Rhode Island Center for the Book  
p: 401.374.0664  
[www.ribook.org](http://www.ribook.org)