

To: House Committee on State Government and Elections
c/o HouseStateGovernmentandElections@rilegislature.gov

Re: In support of **H 7386, The Freedom to Read Act, 2024**

I am strongly in support of bolstering the freedom of the people of Rhode Island to read and protecting our valuable public libraries as stated in this bill. To me this is a central issue in preserving our democracy.

Many states are restricting access to books particularly about Black history and LGBTQ issues, sometimes in the name of religion. Please demonstrate that Rhode Island stands for protecting an individual's freedom to read and freely explore ideas as well as protecting their freedom of religion.

Thank you for your consideration and your hard work.

Kathleen Odean
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