

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** RI Atheists <riatheists@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 26, 2024 3:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. Shanley, Evan P.; Rep. Messier, Mary; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Baginski, Jacquelyn M.; Rep. Brien, Jon D.; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. Kazarian, Katherine S.; Rep. Kennedy, Brian Patrick; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. McGaw, Michelle E.; Rep. Morgan, Patricia L.; Rep. Newberry, Brian C.; Rep. Shallcross Smith, Mary Ann; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.  
**Cc:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Support H7386

Dear Representatives,

My name is Joseph Burgio, Director of Rhode Island Atheists and we strongly support the passage of H7386 Freedom to Read Act.

I am deeply concerned about censorship occurring in other parts of the country, the banning of books and the targeting of librarians. Rather than honor the brilliance, diversity and innovation of authors, illustrators, and librarians, certain groups are intent on marginalizing people who already face systemic discrimination in our society- including people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, religious minorities, and people with disabilities. By protecting books, we protect democracy, religious freedom and liberty.

We cannot allow the censorship and dismantling of our public resources and education system to go unchecked. This bill would stand against that censorship and protect teachers, librarians and educators from the consequences of these efforts across the country.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Joseph Burgio  
Director  
Rhode Island Atheists  
[www.RIAtheists.com](http://www.RIAtheists.com)