

Steven Sepe

From: Renu E <renuenglehart@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 2:13 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Support H7386

Dear Chair Shanley and Honorable members of the House Government and Elections Committee:

I am writing in support of the H7386.

I am a current member of the East Greenwich town council but more importantly I am a parent of the three now grown sons. The Freedom to Read act is particularly important because libraries are one of the few places where knowledge and accessibility is equal, and without prejudice.

The groups that challenge these books do so without disclosing who is supporting them financially and by claiming indoctrination or other propaganda. Censorship of reading materials by private groups or individuals because it offends them personally or politically while ignoring the reasons which people choose books or explore topics, is wrong. It has been suggested frivolously by some members of the General Assembly that perhaps actual porn could be permitted under this scenario despite the hundreds of years of history of libraries being a center for learning and inclusion and is insulting. Further that claim makes a mockery of thousands of librarians who have helped many in their pursuit for knowledge.

Those among us who believe that libraries are dangerous and dark places seem to ignore the fact that most persons in this country carry with them a cell phone with access to material that can be more perilous. I could only wonder why certain groups would want to deny and ban certain books because it makes them uncomfortable without consultation of the reader or the librarian. It seems that those who wish to ban items are highly sensitive to offense.

Thank you for your work and once again I urge you to pass H7386.

Renu Englehart
East Greenwich

--
<https://foundation.womenandinfants.org/capital-campaign>