

To: House Committee on State Government and Elections  
From: Cynthia Ragona  
Cc: Representative K. Joseph Shekarchi, Representative Evan P. Shanley, Representative Christopher R. Blazejewski, Representative David Morales  
Re: Letter in Support of H5726  
Date: April 2, 2025

I am FOR H5726.

Across the country and here in Rhode Island, a small but vocal ideological minority are trying to remove books from library collections. Those challenging books seek to impose their views by restricting the information everyone else can access. Enacting H5726 would:

- show such challengers that Rhode Island—which was founded on a right to free expression— “promote[s] the free expression of and free access to information and the marketplace of ideas by prohibiting the censorship of library material”;
- avoid wasting library workers’ time and resources on such acts of censorship; and
- ensure that decisions about library collections are made only by trained experts.

H5726 would make it clear that Rhode Island values providing all its citizens equal access to information. “[E]fforts to close the minds of the next generation will not make its members stronger, more resilient, more intelligent or, for that matter, more moral.”

Closing quotation from E.J. Dionne Jr. in “Book banning is bad policy. Let’s make it bad politics,” Washington Post, December 18, 2022