

My name is Diane Goldsmith. I live at 73 Shore Rd in Westerly.
I am writing to strongly support H5726 The Rhode Island Freedom to Read Act.

All my life I have been a frequent user of both school and public libraries. I am grateful to those librarians in my elementary and high school who took the time to get to know me and to introduce me to books that expanded my interests and knowledge. I was a strong reader, so many of those books were considered more difficult than those at my age level. That's what made reading challenging and fun and eye opening

School and public librarians are trained professionals who know how to build collections that recognize the wide ranging interests of the communities they serve. SO238 will protect librarians who are exercising this professional judgement as they evaluate books for their collections in their totality. It also supports authors and illustrators who too are exercising their creative rights.

Nothing in this bill stops parents from good parenting - reading with their children and discussing difficult texts or telling their children that certain books aren't appropriate for them at this time. But no parent has the right to do that for other parents and children.

I ask you to vote for H5726. Thank you.