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The Honorable Chairman Evan Shanley  
Chairman, RI House State Government & Elections Committee  
RI State House, Providence, RI

Dear Chairman Shanley:

I am writing to express my strong support for H5726, the Rhode Island Freedom to Read Act. As the Library Director of Rogers Free Library, I have witnessed firsthand the critical role that public libraries play in ensuring access to diverse materials, supporting intellectual freedom, and fostering a well-informed citizenry. This legislation is essential to protecting these fundamental values and ensuring that Rhode Islanders continue to have access to a broad range of viewpoints and information.

A key provision of this bill is its affirmation of legal protections for library and museum workers who make good-faith efforts to provide unrestricted access to materials. These professionals serve as stewards of public knowledge and should not face legal threats or personal liability for upholding the right to read. By explicitly establishing an affirmative legal defense, the bill safeguards those who are dedicated to preserving intellectual freedom and resisting unjust censorship.

I respectfully urge you and your colleagues to support this vital bill. The passage of the Rhode Island Freedom to Read Act will reaffirm our state's commitment to protecting intellectual freedom, defending library workers, and ensuring fair access to information for all. Thank you for your time and consideration. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Dyer  
Library Director  
Rogers Free Library