



March 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is J. Michael Squatrito, Jr, President of the Association of Rhode Island Authors (ARIA), and I'm writing on behalf of our organization. Specifically, in response to the Freedom to Read Act, H5726. I want to state that ARIA is **FOR** this bill's passage. All our authors create literary works, both fiction and non-fiction, and our stance is that everyone should be allowed to read our works. Our First Amendment right to Freedom of Speech should not be dictated by arbitrary groups that might find our works unjustly offensive. Writing is an art, and our works of art should be judged in the court of public opinion and not subjected to censure or banning.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Michael Squatrito, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J. Michael Squatrito, Jr.

President Association of Rhode Island Authors