

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** Maggi Smith-Dalton <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 6:42 AM  
**To:** House State Government and Elections Committee  
**Subject:** Support for HB #5726: RI Freedom to Read Act

Committee State Government Clerk,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill #5726: the Rhode Island Freedom to Read Act. This bill is essential to protecting Rhode Islanders' fundamental rights to free speech, free inquiry, and access to diverse ideas — values enshrined in both the First Amendment and the Rhode Island Constitution.

The only freedom worth having, that upon all else is built, is the freedom to learn and freedom of information is essential to THAT.

I lived in libraries as a child and every good thing I have ever done in the world can be traced directly to my freedom of thought, understanding, and learning...nurtured and enlarged by reading all my life.

I want to preserve this gift for all generations to come. It is vital for the present AND the future.

The Rhode Island Freedom to Read Act is a necessary safeguard against growing threats.

Those who ban books, historically, have NEVER been on the "good guys" side. NEVER.

I urge you to stand with Rhode Island's educators, librarians, and families by supporting the Rhode Island Freedom to Read Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will be watching this closely, and I am an actively engaged US citizen who votes in every single election, small and large.

I appreciate your leadership and commitment to protecting intellectual freedom in Rhode Island.

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