



The Association of American Publishers (AAP) respectfully submits this hearing testimony in support of H5726, the Freedom to Read Act, and joins with the Rhode Island library community in the effort to protect the freedom to read.

AAP represents the leading book, journal, and education publishers in the United States, an industry that not only depends upon the free exercise of rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, but also exists in service to our Constitutional democracy, including the unequivocal freedom to publish, read, and inform oneself.

As publishers, AAP members identify, nurture, and promote authors working in a wide range of disciplines, and representing a board array of perspectives. In the process, they help ensure that our democracy benefits from a vibrant marketplace of ideas. When governments seek to censor constitutionally protected literature and works of nonfiction in violation of the First Amendment, it affects the ability of publishers to disseminate important educational, scientific and literary works; contribute to the economy and the culture; and support authors.

Authors and publishers fully support the critical role public and school libraries play in local communities by promoting literacy and connecting readers to books. Accordingly, AAP proudly partners with libraries in litigation and legislative efforts to protect the right of readers to access literary works across the political, ideological, and experiential spectrum, without government violation of the First Amendment.

We appreciate the opportunity to present these views in support of H5726 to the House Government and State Elections Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

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