PRESS RELEASE

Massachusetts Freedom to Read Legislation Signed into Law

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 11, 2026

On August 10, 2026 Governor Maura Healey signed the Freedom to Read bill. This legislation is a win for readers, education, and our robust library system. It reaffirms the Commonwealth's longstanding commitment to freedom of speech and the value of individuals deciding what is best for themselves and their own families. Importantly, this bill does not deter a parent's right to decide what their own child reads. It simply ensures political agendas will not dictate what is available to every child in public schools and libraries.

Thank you to the librarians and library workers who have been on the front lines of this issue for years; who in the face of words of hate, harassment, and threats, tirelessly defended our right to read. They testified, developed inclusive policies, and supported each other and patrons who felt attacked. This legislation allows them to do their jobs without fear of retaliation or violence. We thank the legislature, especially Senators Julian Cyr and Jake Oliveira and Representatives Sean Garballey, John Moran, Aaron Saunders and Adam Scanlon.

Sincerely,
MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee
Nora Blake, Chair, Intellectual Freedom Committee

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