

William Kent Krueger

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To Senator Kunesch and Representative Gottfried:

I'm writing in support of SF3685/HF3698.

Libraries are a cornerstone of our democracy. Free and easy access to literature helps to open the eyes of us all to our world, to its cultural wonders, natural beauty, profound history, and to the part we play in sustaining all that is good on this planet. I grew up with bookmobiles and with a library card in many small communities across this nation. Who I am today has been shaped by what libraries offered me freely from childhood.

As an author, I'm aware that so many of my readers discover and continue to read my work because of their local library. Although I make my living from the sale of my novels, I hate to think that acquisition of my work is so financially onerous that it adversely affects a library's ability to offer all the important services patrons have come to rely on, especially those among us—and there are many—who are so economically stressed that they can't afford the simple luxury of buying a book.

For the health of our free libraries and for the mental and spiritual wellbeing of all our citizens, I support this important measure. I firmly believe that, in the end, as a result of the passage of this legislation, we will all be better citizens and better human beings living together in a better world.

With hope,

William Kent Krueger
Author of the New York Times best-selling Cork O'Connor mysteries and proud Minnesotan