



December 18, 2019

Dear SCASL Members,

As I'm sure many of you have heard, a SC legislator has proposed a bill that would mandate teaching media literacy in our schools. While I'm sure that many of us can agree that much remains to be done to educate our students on such a critical issue, I am concerned that our role and voice are being lost in the current discussion.

If you saw the television segment which aired on a local station in Columbia, then you may have seen a computer science teacher discussing how she addresses media literacy with her students. While the impetus behind this legislation is certainly warranted I am deeply disturbed that no mention has been made that there are certified professionals AKA school librarians who are capable of instructing students on this topic. We know the impact that collaboration can have, but it is evident that within this story and the others that are sure to follow, that this is not obvious to everyone. It is my sincerest hope that we will be included among the group that will be consulted as mentioned in this news piece.

I urge you to continue publicizing and showcasing the great things that you are doing with students within your local school community and beyond. I hope that you are making plans to attend the upcoming regional meetings so that you can learn more about the proposed legislation. We need to send a message to Representative Seth Rose and others that any "cohesive and in-depth program of media literacy" (Wakeman 2019) that he is considering needs to include school librarians working in tandem with classroom teachers.

I can assure you that our organization will only support such a measure if we are included as key stakeholders that have much to contribute to these efforts and that I will work alongside our Board of Directors to ensure that our value is not ignored.

#WEare SCASL  
Pamela Williams  
SCASL President

Work Cited

"Media Literacy in Schools Takes Center Stage with a Bill Filed by SC Legislator." WISTV, 10 Dec. 2019, [www.wistv.com/2019/12/10/media-literacy-schools-takes-center-stage-with-bill-filed-by-south-carolina-legislator/](http://www.wistv.com/2019/12/10/media-literacy-schools-takes-center-stage-with-bill-filed-by-south-carolina-legislator/). Accessed 13 Dec. 2019.