



**Testimony in Support of HB7026**

**February 2, 2026**

**TO:** House Education Committee

At Collective Action for Education, we fight for all Rhode Island students, especially those in historically marginalized communities, to have access to high-quality public schools where they can learn, grow, and thrive. Central to that mission is ensuring that schools are not just places of academic instruction, but truly safe, supportive environments for young people.

Information can save lives. That is why we strongly support HB7026, relating to Education, the Nathan Bruno and Jason Flatt Act. This legislation would require critical suicide prevention and substance-use resources to be printed directly on, or affixed to, student identification cards, ensuring that help is always accessible when students need it most.

This is a simple, low-cost, and high-impact step that can make a real difference. By placing this information directly in students' hands, HB7026 reduces barriers to support and increases awareness. This normalizes open conversations around mental health and substance abuse.

HB7026 is an opportunity for Rhode Island to take meaningful action to protect students' lives, and to affirm that student safety and mental health are essential components of a strong public education system.