



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS
MAYOR MARIA RIVERA

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4/24/2025

The Honorable, Marvin L. Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island Statehouse
Providence, 02903

RE: Testimony in Support of House Resolution No. 5234

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

As Mayor of Central Falls, I write in strong support of House Resolution No. 5234, which would appropriate \$500,000 to support the continued operation of United Way of Rhode Island's 211, a statewide lifeline connecting residents to critical health and human services.

In 2024, 211 responded to nearly 213,000 calls, texts, emails, and walk-ins from Rhode Islanders—including 909 calls right here in Central Falls, where residents most frequently reached out for help with housing, food, utilities.

As local leaders, we see firsthand how critical it is to have a trusted, accessible resource like 211 that can help residents navigate crises and find stability. With looming federal cuts to safety net programs, our communities will rely on 211 more than ever.

House Resolution No. 5234 is a sound investment in public health, safety, and stability—one that ensures residents in every city and town can access the help they need, when they need it most.

I hope you can include an appropriation in the FY2026 budget for \$500,000 for 211. Thank you for your leadership and for your continued commitment to the well-being of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Maria Rivera
Mayor

Cc: Members of the House Committee on Finance