



May 21, 2025

(Submitted electronically via [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov))

The Honorable Rep. Marvin Abney  
Chair, House Finance Committee

Re: H6128 - An Act Relating To Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities And Hospitals --  
Core State Behavioral Health Crisis Services Systems-988

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of **support** for **House Bill 6128**, which would ensure funding for the state's 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

The implementation of the 988-dialing code as the national number for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline represents progress in the effort for accessible mental health support. This easily remembered three-digit number provides a vital lifeline for individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, emotional distress, or any other behavioral health crisis.

Sustained investment in the 988 program is an important step in strengthening our public mental health infrastructure. Adequate and stable funding ensures the program can meet growing demand, expand access to crisis care, and reduce the burden on emergency services. By supporting 988, we are committing to a more responsive, equitable, and effective system of care for individuals in mental health crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

*M. Campbell*

Melissa Campbell  
Policy Manager  
Rhode Island Health Center Association

The Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:  
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program  
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers  
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency  
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health