

**TO:** Members of Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Amy Herlihy  
**RE:** Support for: H 6128, Sustainable 988 funding  
**DATE:** May 19, 2025

My name is Amy Herlihy and I live in Representative Boylan's district 66.

As a Rhode Island resident who cares deeply about mental health and suicide prevention, I am writing to ask you to please vote YES on H 6128 which would create a long-term, sustained funding source for the 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in Rhode Island.

Calls to the Rhode Island 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline have increased 90%, as compared to 2 years ago. Data indicates that most callers are deescalated over the phone and callers are often connected to in-person or wrap-around services to further support them during that time of crisis. Continued and sustained funding is essential to meet the critical and increasing needs of our community. It is also important to note that full implementation and promotion of 988 will reduce healthcare spending with early intervention, reduce the burden on emergency rooms and law enforcement, save the state money, and improve outcomes for individuals experiencing a suicide or behavioral health crisis.

If passed, I firmly believe H6128 will support those in crisis and save lives. Thank you for your support and consideration.