



Representative Marvin Abney, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

May 22, 2025

Dear Representative Abney and members of the House Finance Committee,

I'm writing in support of H6128, the bill to ensure long-term funding for the state's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. I'm writing in my capacity as Recovery Director and on behalf of Building Futures and the RI Building Trades.

Research shows construction workers are six times more likely to die from suicide than from job-related injuries and four times more likely to die by suicide than the average American. In fact, the suicide rate in the construction industry is second only to mining. Nationally, 17 Construction workers die every day from suicide. Construction workers also suffer disproportionately from opioid use disorders: in 2022, there were 17 times more overdose deaths in the industry than there were fatal work-related injuries. 50 workers died from overdose every day.

988 is a vital, life-saving resource for the construction and building trades industry: despite considerable efforts to offer resources and support behavioral health treatment, shame and stigma remain significant barriers relative to members utilizing their workplace benefits to access treatment and care. In times of substance use and mental health crisis, it's critical that union members, apprentices, and their loved ones have access to 988 as a free, confidential, 24/7 resource for immediate support, resources, and consultation.

Thank you for supporting 988 as an equitable, high-quality behavioral health crisis resources for Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Michael Currier, LICSW
Recovery Director, Building Futures