



May21, 2025

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chair
Finance Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
c/o housefinance@rilegislature.gov

Re: H-6128; AN ACT RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND HOSPITALS -- CORE STATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SERVICES SYSTEMS-988

Dear Chair Abney,

BuildRI is a domestic non-profit trade association comprised of four (4) contractor associations (the Labor Relations Division of the RI Chapter of the Associated General Contractors, the New England Mechanical Contractors' Ass'n, the RI Mason Contractors' Ass'n, and the RI and Southeast MA Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors' Ass'n), and seventeen (17) Local Trade Unions comprised of approximately 10,000 local tradesmen and women. On behalf of our organization, we write SUPPORT the above referred to legislation.

As long time advocates for the construction industry we unfortunately know that 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*. 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.

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. Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons we strongly urge you to pass the above referred to legislation.

Thank you for your time and attention to this correspondence. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael F. Sabitoni'.

Michael F. Sabitoni
Vice Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gregory A. Mancini'.

Gregory A. Mancini
Executive Director/Gen. Counsel