

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,

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of **H 6128**, the bill to ensure funding for the state's **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**.

My name is Molly O'Brien and three years ago, I had just started working on a Rhode Island gubernatorial campaign. I was energized and hopeful—excited to make a real difference in Rhode Island, working to improve the lives of those who live here.

But shortly after I began that journey, my life changed in a horrific and devastating way. In May of 2022, I found my dear friend, she died by suicide.

She was a beautiful soul—a giving friend, a talented chef, and a devoted animal rescue advocate. She was so loved. She mattered. I share this because she was human, not a statistic.

The experience of working on a campaign while navigating such deep loss made me realize, more than ever, the profound power our local leaders have—not just to shape policy, but to truly change lives. **To save lives**. And that is exactly what I'm asking you to do today.

Right now, the federal government is cutting critical services, programs, and funding. People are anxious, uncertain about the future, and struggling to figure out how they will afford basic needs. Now is the time for Rhode Island's leaders to step up—to show that you understand the gravity of the time, and codify funding for 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

I urge you to vote **YES on H-6128** and ensure state budget funding for Rhode Island's **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline**.

By doing so, you signal to Rhode Islanders that they matter. Their lives matter.

Thank you for your time and your commitment.

Sincerely,

Molly O'Brien
Cranston, RI