



February 26, 2026
The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chair, House Committee on Finance
82 Smith Street, Room 306
Providence, RI, 02903

Dear Chairman Abney,

As a provider and on behalf Crossroads Rhode Island, I am writing to express our strong support for the Pay for Success Program as written in the Governor's Recommended Budget.

Crossroads supports the continued investment in Rhode Island's Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Program—a fiscally responsible, outcome-driven model that protects taxpayers and improves public health. Even in its early stages, the program has demonstrated meaningful results by successfully housing high-risk Rhode Islanders who otherwise cycle through emergency rooms, shelters, and other costly crisis systems.

The fiscal case is compelling. Preventable emergency room use in Rhode Island costs tens of thousands of dollars per person annually, while supportive housing is significantly more cost-effective. We are grateful for the Governor's proposed one-year, no-cost extension of operations through the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to ensure program stability.

We respectfully urge the House Committee on Finance to provide the necessary resources to sustain and scale this proven model beyond its pilot phase. Investing in permanent supportive housing is the most effective and humane way to reduce reliance on crisis systems and position Rhode Island as a national leader in accountable solutions to homelessness.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michelle Wilcox", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Wilcox
President and CEO