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

March 4th, 2026

Re: Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 7127

Dear Representative Abney and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

My name is Morgan Wynkoop, and I am the Marketing and Development Assistant at Community Care Alliance. I am writing to express my full support for House Bill 7126, which appropriates funding with no new taxes for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Rhode Island. By using a fee charge from both telephone and mobile lines, the Lifeline can be financially supported with a portion of the redirected funds.

Before stepping into my current role, I worked in creative fields—curating museum exhibits and contributing to arts and film projects. What drew me to those spaces, and what continues to ground me in my work today, is the belief that everything we do should have meaning and impact. Whether it's evoking emotion through a film or helping someone find support in a crisis, every action matters—especially the ones that make people feel seen, heard, and supported.

Though I don't work directly with clients in my current position, I've seen firsthand how essential it is to have the 988 Lifeline available and functioning at full capacity. Even in my communications role, the ripple effect of promoting access to support services is undeniable. We've heard stories, witnessed gratitude, and seen **HOPE** return when someone gets the right help at the right time. Especially, when Rhode Islanders faced challenging times, 988 has been there for when they are needed most. In December there were over 1200 calls made to the center.

Funding for 988 isn't just a policy issue—it's personal. As a friend, older sister, cousin, and lifelong Rhode Islander, I've seen what happens when support systems fail. **Mental health crises don't wait for the next budget cycle, and our residents can't afford to be put on hold.**

The staff and volunteers behind 988 offer immediate, life-saving services—and they need the resources to keep doing so effectively. 988 takes the burden off 911 and connects those who call to specially trained responders with the right resources and support.

Rhode Island has become a national leader in 988 responsiveness, and we should take pride in that. But maintaining that standard means committing the financial resources to ensure its sustainability. This is not a place where corners can be cut, or timelines pushed. People are calling—literally—for help, and we must be ready to answer.

I urge you to prioritize and pass House Bill 7127. Investing in the 988 Lifeline is an investment in the health, safety, and dignity of every Rhode Islander.

Sincerely,

Morgan Wynkoop, BS

Marketing & Development Assistant

Community Care Alliance