



3/25/2026

The Honorable Teresa Tanzi
Chair, House Finance Committee, Subcommittee on Human Services
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for Office of Veterans Services Budget – Governor’s FY 2027 Budget – H7127

Chair Tanzi and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Governor’s FY27 proposed budget for the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services. FSRI fully supports the leadership of Director Yarn and the office’s commitment to ensuring that Rhode Island’s veterans, service members, and military families are cared for and receiving the benefits they deserve.

FSRI is a behavioral health and social service organization that has served Rhode Island children, families, and communities for over a century. As a state-certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), FSRI provides comprehensive behavioral health services designed to meet the needs of individuals across the lifespan, including veterans and service members who may be experiencing trauma, mental health conditions, substance use challenges, or housing instability.

We greatly value our collaboration with the Office of Veterans Services, particularly as it relates to strengthening services for veterans through our CCBHC. This partnership helps ensure that veterans have access to integrated, coordinated care, including behavioral health treatment, case management, peer supports, and connection to essential community resources.

FSRI was also honored to be highlighted in SAMHSA’s *2026 CCBHC Toolkit: Engaging Service Members, Veterans, and Families*, which showcased FSRI’s clinical approach and community-based strategies for supporting military-connected populations. This national recognition underscores the strength of Rhode Island’s service delivery system and reflects the importance of continued state investment in programs that benefit veterans and their families.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of the Office of Veterans Services budget, and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Holland McDuff', written over a white background.

Margaret Holland McDuff, CEO