

3/25/2026

Rhode Island General Assembly
Senate and House Finance Committees
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Chris Librizzi and I am the coach of the Blackstone Valley Hockey Team. I am writing to strongly support the request for expanded funding for Family Service of Rhode Island's GO TEAM®.

On February 16th, I was present at Lynch Arena during the mass shooting. What should have been a normal day at the rink quickly turned into something none of us will ever forget. In the immediate aftermath, there was fear, confusion, and a deep sense of shock- especially among the young people in our care.

What made a profound difference in those critical moments was the presence of GO TEAM®. Their staff arrived quickly, worked alongside law enforcement, and brought a calm, trauma-informed approach that helped stabilize an incredibly chaotic situation. They were not only supporting the children, but also guiding adults like myself on how to respond in a way that would not further harm or traumatize the kids.

In the days that followed, their impact continued. They helped connect families to resources, supported young people as they processed what they experienced, and reminded our community that we were not alone. As a coach, I am used to helping kids build resilience—but this was something different. Without GO TEAM®, I truly believe many of our players and families would have struggled much more deeply and for much longer.

Programs like GO TEAM® are not a luxury, they are essential. Their ability to provide on-scene crisis intervention, behavioral stabilization, and ongoing support is exactly what communities need in moments of crisis. Expanding this program to additional municipalities will ensure that more children and families have access to the same level of care and support that we were fortunate to receive.

I urge you to support this funding request. What GO TEAM® provides cannot be replaced, and its impact is both immediate and long-lasting. I witnessed firsthand how critical their presence is. And while I hope no other community will have to face the tragedy we did in Pawtucket, knowing that GO TEAM® might be there in their moment of need makes us all feel safer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher Librizzi - Head Coach Blackstone Valley Schools Hockey

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