

To:  
RI State Legislature  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

May 12, 2026

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR H8148**

To Whom It My Concern,

I am writing in STRONG support of H8148, legislation that would require suicide prevention barriers on Rhode Island's major bridges.

This bill is URGENTLY needed to help prevent suicide deaths and reduce the devastating impact these tragedies have on families, witnesses, first responders, and entire communities. As a Rhode Island physician working in a psychiatric emergency setting I have seen these effects first-hand.

Suicidal crises are often brief and impulsive, and research shows that barriers on bridges reduce bridge suicides by **around 90%** (see a Cochrane Review by Okolie, et al. 2020 for details; <https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD013543>). Barriers provide a critical pause that can save lives. These interventions have been proven effective in other locations and should be implemented in Rhode Island.

**I URGE you to support and PASS H8148.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, 

**Brian Theyel, MD, PhD**

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