

To Whom It May 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.

Suicidal crises are often brief and impulsive, and research shows that barriers on bridges significantly reduce deaths by providing 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,

Kimberly Smith, LICSW

Sent from my iPhone