

April 24, 2025

Chairman Evan Shanley  
House State Government and  
Elections Committee  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: House Bill 6165 **Purple Alert system**

Dear Chairman Shanley and Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the **Community Provider Network of Rhode Island (CPNRI)**, I write to express our **strong support** for the proposed legislation **H6165 PURPLE Alert system** for missing adults with serious physical, behavioral health, or neurological disabilities or conditions.

As a network of organizations committed to providing high-quality, community-based supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across Rhode Island, we understand firsthand the urgency and importance of prompt, coordinated responses when vulnerable individuals go missing.

The **PURPLE Alert** program addresses a critical gap in our current emergency alert infrastructure. While systems like the AMBER Alert have proven effective in protecting children, and the Silver Alert proven effective for seniors, adults with disabilities who may be nonverbal, disoriented, or unable to seek help are often left without an appropriate mechanism to ensure their swift and safe recovery. The first few hours after a disappearance are crucial, and this legislation rightly prioritizes the health and safety of some of our most at-risk community members.

We commend the bill's thoughtful approach, including collaboration among law enforcement, public health authorities, emergency management, and media partners. Importantly, the bill empowers families, guardians, and long-term care providers to advocate for timely alerts based on objective documentation of risk. This collaborative and evidence-based framework ensures that alerts will be used responsibly and effectively.



# COMMUNITY PROVIDER NETWORK OF RHODE ISLAND

By enacting the PURPLE Alert system, Rhode Island will not only protect individuals with disabilities—it will also demonstrate a clear commitment to equity, dignity, and public safety for all its citizens.

CPNRI urges the passage of this legislation and we thank you for your deliberate consideration of this important legislation.



1130 Ten Rod Road, Suite F101  
North Kingstown, RI



# PURPLE ALERT

FIND MISSING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**PASS HB 6165 & SB 983**



**COMMUNITY  
PROVIDER NETWORK**  
OF RHODE ISLAND

## ⚠️ EMERGENCY ALERTS

### PURPLE Alert

HB 6165 & SB 983 creates a new statewide alert system for when people with physical or cognitive disabilities go missing. This allows a coordinated emergency alert system like the AMBER and SILVER alerts.



### AMBER Alert

To find children who have been abducted.



### SILVER Alert

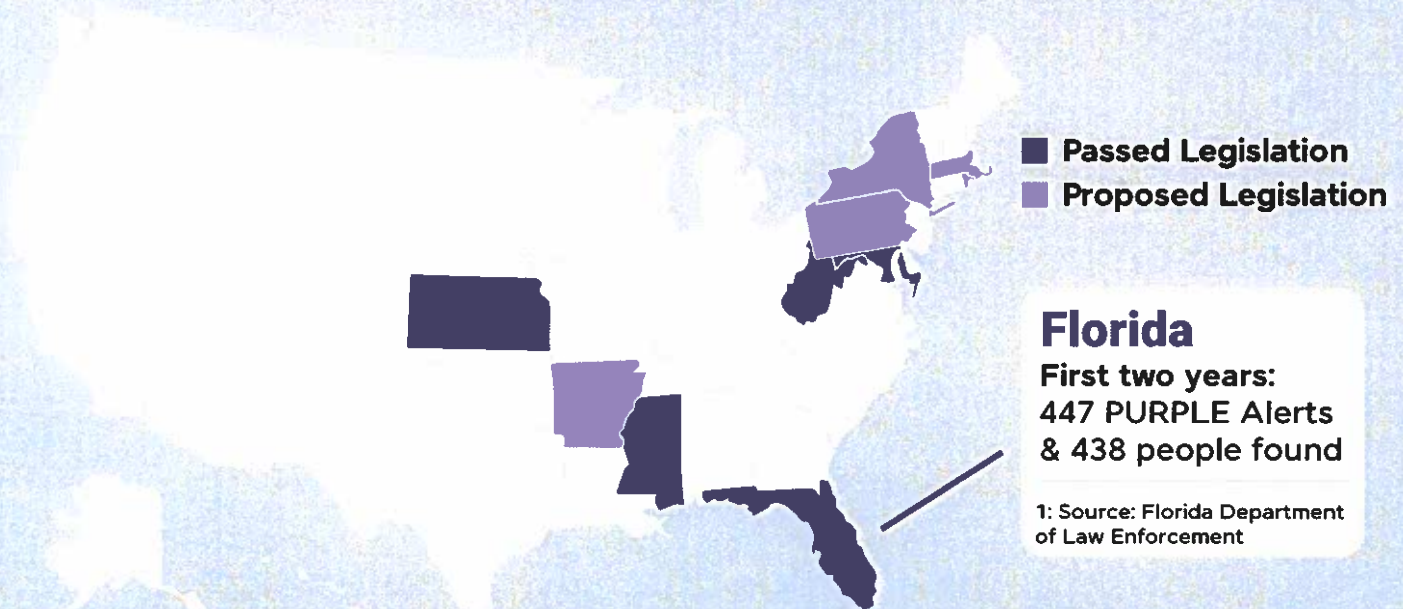
To find people over 60 with cognitive impairments.



### PURPLE Alert

To find missing people with disabilities.

## RI HAS THE CHANCE TO BE A LEADER



**PASS HB 6165 & SB 983**