

April 23, 2025

House State Government and Elections Committee
State of Rhode Island General Assembly
Providence, RI 02903

Testimony in support of H-6188, The Linda DaLomba Purple Alert Act

Dear Members of the House State Government and Elections Committee,

My name is Sandra Nasabzadeh, and I am writing to you on behalf of our family as relatives of one of your constituents, Linda DaLomba, to express our strong support for H-6188, The Linda DaLomba Purple Alert Act.

Last month, our family had firsthand experience with the surreal, unnerving, and deeply upsetting impact of having a loved one go missing. As a family with an adult autistic relative who has developmental disabilities, limited communication skills, and is dependent on a caregiver, we had heightened fears around the increased risk these vulnerabilities presented to Linda's safety. We felt particularly helpless upon learning that Linda was not where she was reported to be, increasing the sense of urgency to have any and all eyes everywhere on the lookout for her.

H-6188 will help law enforcement in the search for vulnerable missing adults. As in the case of all missing persons, the widespread sharing of information is so critical in those first few hours and is bolstered by an alert system. The bill's provisions for a standardized process are particularly important because they will trigger efficient coordination between law enforcement, media, the health department, and other relevant agencies to communicate to the public at large. It will increase visibility regarding a vulnerable missing person in a timely and efficient way so the public can provide helpful information to aid in the search at a critical time.

We strongly believe that H-6188, The Linda DaLomba Purple Alert Act, will have a positive impact in the search for missing adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This bill will help vulnerable adults and families like ours who have the unfortunate experience of going through a similar situation. We are lucky and grateful that Linda came home safely and our story had a positive outcome. We have so much gratitude for the efforts of the Cranston Police, state and local law enforcement, media, and community members who assisted in the search for Linda. We want to amplify those efforts through a coordinated and standardized system and increase the odds that other missing loved ones come home safely to their families.

We urge you to vote in favor of H-6188, The Linda DaLomba Purple Alert Act. Thank you for taking action to make the community safer for all.

Sincerely,

The Canuto Family