



March 9, 2026

The Honorable Hannah M. Gallo, Chair  
Senate Education Committee  
Rhode Island Statehouse  
Providence, 02903

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2348- RELATING TO EDUCATION -- THE NATHAN BRUNO  
AND JASON FLATT ACT**

On behalf of United Way of Rhode Island, we strongly support **S 2348, the Nathan Bruno and Jason Flatt Act**. The bill requires any middle or high school that issues student ID cards to include **suicide prevention** and **substance use crisis** hotlines and applies the same requirement to **staff ID cards** for school and district employees.

United Way's policy and advocacy work is guided by our strategic framework: **Strong Families, Strong Nonprofits, Strong United Way**. We prioritize policies that strengthen household stability, expand access to opportunity, and ensure public investments deliver measurable value. Student mental health and substance use crises directly affect educational outcomes and family stability. When young people and trusted adults can quickly access the right resource in a moment of need, schools are safer, families are better supported, and students are more able to stay engaged in learning.

**S 2348 is a low-cost, high-impact prevention step.** It places critical crisis contact information in a location students and staff already carry every day, and it allows practical implementation flexibility by permitting schools to print the information directly on the ID card or use a sticker. Extending the requirement to staff IDs reinforces that crisis response is a shared responsibility and ensures educators and support staff can quickly access or share the same information when helping a student or colleague connect to care.

United Way of Rhode Island respectfully urges your support for **S 2348**. Ensuring students and school staff have immediate access to suicide prevention and substance use crisis support information is a straightforward, preventive measure that strengthens the educational community's well-being and promotes safer, more supportive learning environments across Rhode Island.

Sincerely,  
Elijah McLean  
Manager, Government Relations & Policy  
United Way of Rhode Island  
[Elijah.McLean@unitedwayri.org](mailto:Elijah.McLean@unitedwayri.org)