



March 26, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7127 – Public Safety Budget

Chairman DiPalma and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is Jan Jackson, and I serve as the GO TEAM® Clinical Supervisor with Family Service of Rhode Island. I am here today to ask for your continued and increased investment in the GO TEAM® program—not as an abstract policy request, but as someone who stands beside Rhode Island families on the worst days of their lives.

I chose to work in victim services because I believe that how we respond to people in their most vulnerable moments can shape the course of their healing. When someone experiences trauma, they are often left feeling powerless, unheard, and isolated. I wanted to be part of the response that restores dignity, safety, and a sense of control.

This work goes beyond crisis intervention—it is about bearing witness, advocating fiercely, and ensuring that no one has to navigate the aftermath of trauma alone. I am driven by the understanding that even small moments of compassion, validation, and support can have a lasting impact. Victim services allows me to combine empathy with action. It challenges me to show up consistently, to hold space for difficult stories, and to be a steady, reliable presence when everything else feels uncertain. I chose this field not because it is easy, but because it is meaningful—and because every person deserves to be met with respect, belief, and care when they need it most.

Every shift, I'm in a cruiser with an officer, prepared to respond to whatever call comes in. GO TEAM® pairs trauma-trained clinicians with law enforcement to provide immediate, on-scene support in the aftermath of crisis—whether it's a suicide, homicide, domestic violence incident, or a child exposed to violence. We are there in the first moments, when families are overwhelmed and unsure what to do next.

I have sat with parents after the loss of a child to suicide, supported children who have witnessed violence, and comforted students and staff after critical incidents. I have also responded to large-scale tragedies, including the recent mass shootings impacting both Brown and Pawtucket. GO TEAM® was on the ground immediately—supporting families at reunification sites and helping communities begin to process unimaginable trauma. In the weeks and months that followed, we remained present in the Brown community, providing trauma education, Psychological First Aid, and connection to resources as students and faculty returned to campus. We showed up in multiple locations to ensure people had the support they needed as they navigated their recovery.



Family Service
OF RHODE ISLAND

At the same time, this work is not only about large-scale events—it is about the everyday crises that impact our young people and families. Recently, our team supported a young child who had run away from home and did not feel safe sharing information with law enforcement. Through a trauma-informed approach, we were able to build trust, help the child reconnect with their caregivers, and support that family with resources and guidance moving forward. That moment could have gone very differently—but because GO TEAM® was there, it became an opportunity for connection and support instead of further fear.

GO TEAM® is often the difference between someone feeling alone in their trauma and someone feeling seen, supported, and connected to care.

I urge your continued and increased investment in this program so that we can continue to show up for Rhode Island families in these critical moments—and ensure that no one has to face them alone. Thank you for your time and your commitment to our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Jan Jackson, LMHC QMHP
GO TEAM® Clinical Supervisor
Family Service of Rhode Island