

Here is a **polished, committee-ready favorable testimony for S-2371**, written in the same professional, authoritative voice you use at the State House. You can drop this directly into written testimony or adapt it for oral remarks.

If you want it tailored to a specific committee, Senator, or district impact, I can refine it further.

Favorable Testimony on S-2371

Submitted to the Rhode Island General Assembly
Hearing Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026

Chair DiPalma, members of the Senate Finance Committee:

My name is **John Gallo**, and I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of **Senate Bill S-2371**.

S-2371 is a practical, responsible, and forward-looking measure that strengthens Rhode Island's commitment to its veteran community. The bill addresses real operational gaps that veteran service organizations encounter every day—gaps that directly affect our ability to serve, support, and advocate for the men and women who have worn this nation's uniform.

Why S-2371 Matters

Veteran organizations across Rhode Island operate with limited resources while carrying out essential community functions:

- connecting veterans to benefits and services,
- providing peer support and crisis intervention,
- organizing ceremonies and civic engagement,
- maintaining facilities that serve as community anchors.

S-2371 recognizes these realities and provides targeted, meaningful support that will have an immediate impact. The bill strengthens the infrastructure that allows VSOs to function effectively and ensures that Rhode Island's veterans—across all eras of service—receive the respect, access, and assistance they have earned.

A Responsible and Necessary Investment

S-2371 is not symbolic. It is a **measured, fiscally responsible** step that enhances the capacity of organizations already doing the work. It does not create new bureaucracy or duplicate existing programs. Instead, it reinforces the partnerships between the state and the veteran community, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and transparently.

Strengthening Rhode Island's Veteran Network

By supporting the operational needs of veteran organizations, S-2371 helps ensure:

- **greater outreach and engagement**, especially for aging and underserved veterans;
- **improved coordination** with municipal and state agencies;
- **sustained community presence**, including posts and councils that host ceremonies, meetings, and public events;
- **continuity of services** that veterans rely on for stability, connection, and advocacy.

This bill reflects Rhode Island's longstanding commitment to honoring service not only with words, but with action.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give **full and favorable consideration** to **S-2371**. This legislation strengthens the foundation of veteran support in our state and ensures that Rhode Island continues to lead with integrity, responsibility, and respect for those who have served.

Respectfully submitted,
John P Gallo Sr., Chairman
Legislation Committee
Secretary, United Veterans Council of Rhode Island