



State of Rhode Island
Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos

March 24, 2026

Senator Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
82 Smith St, Senate Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Letter of Support for S3058: An Act Relating To Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities And Hospitals -- 988 Call Center And Bh Link Operations Act

Dear Senator Murray:

I write to you in support of S3058: An Act Relating To Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities And Hospitals -- 988 Call Center And BH Link Operations Act. This bill establishes the operations necessary for a 988 hotline for suicide prevention/behavioral health crisis management and also establishes the operations necessary for acute mental health crisis outreach/stabilization services in direct response to the 988 hotline.

As the Chair of the Long Term Care Coordinating Committee, I work with senior centers throughout the state to help bring vital information and resources to the people and communities that need them most. At each senior center I visit, I make sure to bring a representative from 988 with me because I recognize the importance of ensuring we look after not just the physical health and wellness of our aging Rhode Islanders, but their mental health as well.

The need for services like this is paramount. In the years since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen just how vital mental health is to the greater health and wellness ecosystem. As a state, we need to be prepared to respond urgently and offer services to those in need. 988 does just that.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote this bill favorably out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabina Matos
Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor
CC: Senator Melissa Murray