



235 Promenade Street, Suite 455
Providence, RI 02908
401.274.1771
info@rihca.org
www.rihca.org

Rhode Island General Assembly, State Senate
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
(Submitted electronically via SLegislation@rilegislature.gov)

Re: Support for Senate Bill 3058

Dear Chairperson Murray and Members of the Committee:

Please accept the Rhode Island Health Center Association's letter of **support** for **Senate Bill 3058**, which seeks to establish a sustainable, full behavioral health crisis safety net in which 988 serves as a crucial access point for crisis stabilization and mobile intervention for children and adults.

The implementation of the 988-dialing code as the national number for the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline represents progress in the effort for accessible mental health support. This easily remembered three-digit number provides a vital lifeline for individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts, emotional distress, or any other behavioral health crisis. This bill strengthens 988 as a reliable and easy-to-use resource for behavioral health crises, building on existing federal and state investments and momentum.

Sustained investment in the 988 program is crucial to strengthening our public mental health infrastructure. A stable infrastructure and funding will ensure the program can meet growing demand, expand access to crisis care, support coordinated mental health care, and reduce the burden on emergency services. By supporting 988, we are committing to a more responsive, equitable, and effective system of care for individuals in mental health crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

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

Melissa Campbell
Policy Manager

The Rhode Island Health Center Association members include:
Blackstone Valley Community Health Care Inc. ~ Comprehensive Community Action Program
East Bay Community Action Program ~ Providence Community Health Centers
Thundermist Health Center ~ Tri-County Community Action Agency
WellOne Primary Medical and Dental Care ~ Wood River Health