

May 15, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of bill H7035 for 988 funding. We are experiencing a national mental health crisis and it is imperative that we have reliable and sustainable funding to support 988 call centers so that people have timely access to crisis services. By offering immediate help to everyone who might need it, 988 provides invaluable support at critical times. Furthermore, we need a full continuum of care so that people can reach someone to talk to, have someone to respond to this call, such as a mobile crisis response team and have somewhere to go, such as crisis respite and stabilization centers. I am in complete support in this bill to create a revolving 988 trust fund to consist of any funds for state appropriations, grants, and gifts for the purpose of implementing, maintaining, and improving the 988 system, including call centers, mobile crisis response, and crisis stabilization services.

Suicide is a public health problem and RI ranks 44 in suicide death rates. It is the 12th leading cause of death in Rhode Island. We must act now to save lives.

Please take action now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E Pearce-Spence". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Emily Pearce-Spence
11 Pleasant St.
Bristol, RI 02809
(401)480-0562