

Chris O'Brien

From: Rep. Abney, Marvin L.
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2024 3:29 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: FW: Support H7035 to Support & Sustain a Behavioral Health Crisis System in RI

From: Susan Orban <Susan.Orban.571816563@forgrassroots.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 11:06 AM
To: Rep. Abney, Marvin L. <rep-abney@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: Support H7035 to Support & Sustain a Behavioral Health Crisis System in RI

Dear Representative Abney:

As a fellow Rhode Islander, I am writing to ask that you and your colleagues in the House Finance Committee please support H. 7035, which is scheduled to be heard on Wednesday (5/15).

We need an effective Crisis System to address our dual epidemic of overdose and suicide deaths. H7035 will codify state budget funding for the RI 988 crisis system and create a revolving 988 trust fund to assure that it remains funded. For too long BH services have been dependent on federal grants that come and go. There is no question, the 988 system is needed in RI. Between January – March of this year, 2,543 calls to 988 were routed to Rhode Island, a 58% increase compared to the same time frame in 2023.

Permanent, sustainable funding, similar to how we fund 911, is needed for our 988 system to meet these growing community crisis needs and to ensure access to a full continuum of crisis services for all Rhode Islanders, which includes mobile response teams and crisis stabilization centers in addition to our crisis call centers.

Enactment of H7035 can help save lives across our state and avoid the inappropriate and expensive use of police and Emergency Depts. as the go-to response for behavioral health crises. We need an effective BH Crisis System in RI and 988 can provide that. Invest in 988.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,
Susan Orban
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