



50 Valley Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02909  
(401) 444-0600 | www.unitedwayri.org



May 7, 2024

Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

RE: Testimony on Support of House Resolution 7693

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Resolution 7693 and the critical investment in 211 services for Rhode Island.

United Way of Rhode Island funds Rhode Island's 211 service and takes more than 200,000 calls annually from fellow citizens who need help and referrals.

This critical important resource is changing and even saving lives. I implore you to pass this funding bill and ensure 211's continued success instead of relying on the generosity of private donations.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your continued support of United Way of Rhode Island's efforts to address the needs of our community.

Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Wes Cotter".

Wes Cotter  
United Way RI Board of Directors





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RE: Testimony on Support of House Resolution 7693

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Resolution 7693 and the critical investment in 211 services for Rhode Island.

This year, United Way of Rhode Island's 211 services have fielded in excess of 200,000 calls from Rhode Islanders in need. 211 is the first and often the last point of contact for these individuals who have no other place to turn, or do not know where to turn. 211 is our lifeline in a state that continues to see increases in need for supportive services.

Investments in 211 also have shown consistently a return on investment. We are fortunate to have this support service in our state but we need to ensure 211 is sustainable for the next several years and can continue to serve effectively the most in need in our state.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your continued support of United Way of Rhode Island's efforts to address the needs of our community.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dolph Johnson", written over the typed name.

Dolph Johnson  
United Way RI Board of Directors

Uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunity for all Rhode Islanders.



United Way  
of Rhode Island



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May 3, 2024

Honorable Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, Rhode Island, 02908

RE: Testimony in Support of House Resolution 7693

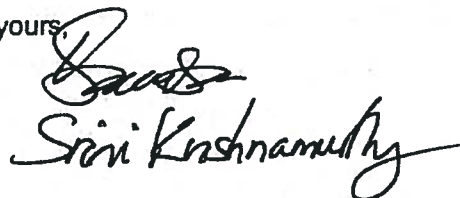
Honorable Representative Abney, Chair, House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Resolution No. 7693 and the critical investment in 211 services for Rhode Island.

When Rhode Islanders are in crisis, they call 2-1-1. With natural disasters and other state crises on a rapid increase, the next crisis is only around the corner. If the state does not provide the \$500,000 to the United Way of Rhode Island, the residents of the state will suffer. Rhode Island should follow the practice of other states and fund this mission critical public service before the next crisis hits our residents. We cannot afford to put the safety and wellbeing of our residents in jeopardy any more.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your continued support of United Way of Rhode Island's efforts to address the needs of our community.

Sincerely yours,

  
Sriini Krishnamurthy

Uniting our community and resources to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders.



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May 3, 2024

Honorable Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
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Providence, Rhode Island, 02908

RE: Testimony in Support of House Resolution 7693

Honorable Representative Abney, Chair, House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Resolution No. 7693 and the critical investment in 211 services for Rhode Island.

United Way RI provides a vital service to all Rhode Islanders & to the State of RI. I have worked on behalf of vulnerable RIers for many years. Although state agencies do surveys to assess needs, 211 is the only way to get help with issues that makes an array of services accessible to people in need. Social service & mental health related inquiries are made accessible on a daily basis. 211 is the only source of help that is successfully able to meet residents' needs. 211 is also critical to the state achieving its goals related to healthcare affordability. The connection between social determinants of health, healthcare AND the cost of healthcare is indisputable. Without 211, social needs will remain unaddressed & will fuel ED visits & exacerbate the mental health crisis. Healthcare providers will bear the brunt of the placing the healthcare system at risk. The state simply cannot afford the impact of any changes in services to all who are vulnerable & have healthcare needs.

add to on cost impact of SDH on health care + not at all important now

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your continued support of United Way of Rhode Island's efforts to address the needs of our community.

Sincerely yours,

*Dana Sheehan*



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May 3, 2024

Honorable Representative Marvin Abney, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
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Providence, Rhode Island, 02908

RE: Testimony in Support of House Resolution 7693

Honorable Representative Abney, Chair, House Finance Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Resolution No. 7693 and the critical investment in 211 services for Rhode Island.

The state budget should fund the United Way's 211 program. It is a trusted source of assistance for ~~the residents of~~ people in our state. 211 became much better known due to its critical role during the ~~past~~ pandemic. As a result, ~~it~~ it has become a service that the state should fund. Notably almost all other states fund their 211 services. It is time for RI to step up and stand behind RI's 211 program.

Thank you for considering my testimony and for your continued support of United Way of Rhode Island's efforts to address the needs of our community.

Sincerely yours,

Jayne Donega