

# VICTORIA GU

State Senate  
— District **38** —

**Fundraiser Still On Feb 26th  
+ More February Updates**



## Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm amidst this record-setting blizzard and some hurricane-level wind gusts. I want to acknowledge the public works employees, first responders, utility workers, and everyone else who worked around the clock to clear our streets, respond to emergency calls, and restore people's power when there were power outages.

### Resources

- As far as I can tell, state roads were cleared early on. Feel free to reach out to me with any plowing issues on state roads 401-388-0696. If you have any remaining plowing issues with local roads, I recommend calling your town's local public works department.
- For community resources and storm-related information, you can dial [211](#) for free 24-hour assistance.

## Bills I've Introduced: Healthcare & Mental Health

### Mental Health Hotlines on Student & Staff ID's

I'm introducing Senate Bill 2348, alongside Rep. Earl A. Read III, to require Rhode Island middle and high schools to print mental health crisis hotline numbers — including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline — directly on student and staff ID cards. **At a time when youth mental health challenges are increasing, we have a responsibility to make help visible and accessible.**

S2348 has been referred to the Senate Education Committee, and the companion bill, H7026, has been assigned to the House Education Committee. Written testimony can be submitted by 1. emailing [Slegislation@rilegislature.gov](mailto:Slegislation@rilegislature.gov) (Senate) 2. emailing [HouseEducation@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseEducation@rilegislature.gov) (House)

Please include the bill number (S2348 or H7026) in the subject line, along with your name, town, and position on the bill.

### Mobile Integrated Health / Community Paramedicine

I'm working with Representative Tina Spears, Charlestown Rescue, Westerly Ambulance and others on legislation to establish sustainable funding and reimbursement for community paramedicine programs. **Community paramedicine – also known as Mobile Integrated Health – is increasingly used in rural communities to bridge critical healthcare gaps caused by geographic isolation, limited provider availability, and/or transportation barriers.** It allows trained paramedics to provide preventative care in a patient's home, helping manage chronic conditions, conduct follow-up visits, and connect residents with local health and social services. By treating patients where they are and addressing concerns early, we can reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, lower healthcare costs, and improve overall outcomes. Strengthening this model supports our EMS providers while keeping residents healthier and safer at home.

Read the bill

here: <http://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText26/HouseText26/H7485.pdf>

The Senate bill doesn't have a bill number yet. Written testimony can be submitted by emailing [HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseHealthandHumanServices@rilegislature.gov) with H-7485 in the subject line

**Fundraiser is still on!**  
**Feb 26th, 2026 6-8pm**



Join us for a fundraiser in  
support of

## VICTORIA GU RI STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 38

THUR FEB 26, 2026  
6-8PM

ASIA GRILLE  
(PRIVATE DINING ROOM)  
140 HILLSIDE RD  
CRANSTON, RI

Suggested Donation  
\$40 Young Professional  
\$100 Supporter  
\$250 Champion  
[victoria4ri.com/feb26](http://victoria4ri.com/feb26)

Given that State Senate business is resuming Feb 26th, we decided to proceed with our fundraiser as planned. If you're having any issues getting there, let us know ([victoria4ri@gmail.com](mailto:victoria4ri@gmail.com)) and we can refund tickets as necessary.

Reaching voters directly—through newsletters, mail, canvassing, and community events—ensures that people have the information they need to make informed choices. Thank you to everyone who has already stepped up. If you've donated recently and plan to join us, please don't feel any pressure to give again—your support in all its forms means a great deal.

Here's the date/time/location:

**February 26th, 2026 6-8pm**

**Asia Grille (Private Dining Room): 140 Hillside Rd, Cranston, RI**

You can get your ticket online: [victoria4ri.com/feb26](http://victoria4ri.com/feb26)

Or checks can be made out to:

Friends of Victoria Gu

PO Box 116, Charlestown, RI, 02813

P.S. By tradition, Senators hold fundraisers up north during the January–June legislative session so colleagues from across the state can attend. We'll also be hosting a fundraiser in the Westerly/Charlestown area in the late spring or early summer, and I look forward to gathering closer to home.

Get your ticket today: [victoria4ri.com/feb26](https://victoria4ri.com/feb26)



## **AI & Emerging Tech Committee: Updates & Bills**

I've held two committee hearings so far as chair of the AI & Emerging Tech Committee in the Senate. The goal was to update everyone on the latest changes to AI technologies and the roadmap presented by the Governor's AI Task Force report. Here's a link to the hearings:

- URI Presentation & AI Demos on Feb 3rd, including agentic AI deployed in business applications, plus recent tech efforts to reduce AI “hallucinations” <https://capitolvri.cablecast.tv/show/11713>
- Congressman Langevin presentation on the Governor’s AI Task Force Report: Check back on [Capitol TV’s home page](#) (scroll down to Senate AI & Emerging Technologies)

## Stay Up-To-Date with State House News

Here’s a link to the press releases that get put out every day on bills that are introduced and voted

on: <https://www.rilegislature.gov/pressrelease/pages/default.aspx>

Next rail advocates meeting: March 2nd 6pm @ Westerly Library



## Westerly Ambulance Legislative Grant

I am proud to present a legislative grant this year to Westerly Ambulance Corps, an organization that has served our community with dedication and professionalism for decades. This grant will help ensure they have the equipment needed to continue delivering high-quality care.

# Westerly Town Council + State Reps Meeting

We went to a Westerly Town Council meeting to hear their legislative and budget priorities for 2026. A lot of different topics came up, but a number of councilors mentioned short-term rentals (navigating legal questions) and finding ways to fund improvements to the Westerly Wastewater Treatment Plant (a priority asset in the Statewide Climate Resiliency Plan because of its vulnerability to storms). For example, the RI Infrastructure Bank awarded funds for a flood wall around one of the sewage pump stations in Westerly. To read the draft statewide climate resiliency plan visit <https://climatechange.ri.gov/resilient-rhody>



# Charlestown Town Council + State Reps Meeting

I don't have a picture from this but we did a similar meeting between myself, Rep Spears, Senator Morgan, and the Charlestown Town Council to hear their



priorities. This was a long session but some highlights included:

- Advance the state-wide climate resiliency plan, especially protections for salt ponds, beaches, and barrier systems.
- Monitor and respond to any legislative proposals tied to the Rhode Island Foundation/Blue Ribbon Council recommendations about state funding of schools.
- Address federal Medicaid funding shortfalls; Leverage the \$150 million federal Rural Health Transformation grant
- Support public transportation (important for folks that will need to fulfill new Medicaid work requirements) and suggest looking into unintended consequences of license suspensions because of unpaid state taxes



## Westerly WARM Center Grant

I am glad to provide a legislative grant this year to the **Westerly WARM Center**. Since 1987, the WARM Center has offered shelter, housing support, and essential services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, working tirelessly to help neighbors regain stability and independence.

In recent years, the WARM Center has reported an increase in older adults seeking assistance as rising rents force many from their homes. Seniors living on fixed or limited retirement incomes are especially vulnerable to housing instability. This grant, as well as pro-active approaches to affordable housing, will support the WARM Center's critical work and **stand with older residents who deserve safe, stable housing in the community they've long called home.**

## Charlestown Memorial Day Committee Grant

I am pleased to provide a legislative grant this year to the **Charlestown Memorial Day Committee**- the dedicated volunteers who organize Charlestown's annual Memorial Day Parade. For generations, this parade has honored the service and sacrifice of our veterans, bringing together local families, veterans' groups, first responders, and community organizations along the parade route each spring.

I'm grateful to the Committee for the time, care, and commitment they invest each year to make this event meaningful and welcoming for all.



## Winter Resources

# & Westerly Library's Community Resource Advocate

Power Outages: Maps, Alerts, How to Report

The Community Resource Advocate at the Westerly Library provides advice that can help connect individuals and their loved ones to community resources based on their needs. There is also a Mental Health Advocate and Veteran Assistance.

Hours/sessions available here: <https://www.westerlylibrary.org/event/community-resource>

**Repeating because of the cold weather we're going through-  
Do you know someone in need of emergency assistance to pay for heating  
oil/fuel?** A couple places to contact are:

- Westerly: **Jonnycake Center of Westerly**
- Charlestown: The Charlestown Senior Center
- South County towns: **Tri-County CAP** for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications, Heat Pumps and Weatherization, and Emergency Boiler Repair