Dear Friends, Mentors, and Supporters,

All of us at MENTOR Rhode Island are sad, devastated, heartbroken AND ANGRY.

We were blindsided by the news that, on Tuesday night at the School Committee Meeting, our entire funding for the Warwick Mentor Program was cut from the budget. As you know, mentoring is not a "nice to have" program. It is a "need to have" program which gives support to the young people we serve. Currently there are 160 mentor/mentee pairs ranging from 2nd grade through high school.

How do we tell these children that their mentors, people they have relied on week after week, year after year in some cases, are unable to continue? I am outraged. I hope you are, too.

Will you please help us to advocate for the reinstatement of these funds?

Our program has been in existence and funded by the school department since 1990; it is the foundation of our organization. Thirty years of history and amazing results for Warwick kids.... I cannot find the words to express the disappointment and devastation we are feeling.

Please reach out to our elected officials to express your thoughts:

School Committee members Phone Email

Bethany Furtado, Chair 401-737-2354 bethany.furtado@warwickschools.org Eugene Nadeau 401-463-8742 eugene.nadeau@warwickschools.org Karen Bachus 401-732-3757 karen.bachus@warwickschools.org M. Terri Medeiros terri.medeiros@warwickschools.org David Testa 401-626-1084 david.testa@warwickschools.org
City Council members

Richard Corley 401-481-5436 rkcorley@corleyassociates.com Jeremy Rix 401-263-5559 rixforwarwick@gmail.com Timothy Howe 401-215-0632 Howe.Ward3@gmail.com Edgar Ladouceur 401-447-7181 ed.ladouceurri@yahoo.com Donna M. Travis 401-738-9774 Donna.M.Travis@warwickri.com Stephen P. MacAllister 401-287-1813 smcallister4@gmail.com Joseph Gallucci 401-487-6224 joegallucciward8@cox.net Steve Merolla, President 401-739-2900 x306 smerolla@merollalaw.com
Mayor Joe Solomon 401-738-2004 mayorsoffice@warwickri.com

If you are a mentor, please share YOUR story with these officials! You are so important in the life of your mentee and to the success of the Warwick Mentor Program.

We have an emergency meeting of our Board of Directors on Monday, July 30th. We will formulate our next steps and contingency planning at that time. I will update you as soon as we have some answers.

How do we tell 160 vulnerable kids that they aren't a priority? We need your help!

Please reach out TODAY. It matters for our kids.

With gratitude for all you do,



Jo-Ann
and the entire MENTOR Rhode Island team
401-732-7700

P.S. If you have any thoughts on other ways you may be able to help, please do not hesitate to reach out.