

May 20, 2025

House Finance Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
State House
Providence, RI

RE: Support for H5527- Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for Children and Youth

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Kellie B., and I am the parent/guardian of CB, a former client. I am here today to share my experience as a parent and why the TIDES PROGRAM is critical for families like mine.

My child, CB, was referred to Tides after presenting at Hasbro Children's Hospital Emergency Room for a mental health crisis. CB requested to be seen at Hasbro because he did not feel safe with himself and wanted help. One of the discharge recommendations was to engage with Tides. This recommendation was supported by CB's individual therapist, with whom he has been treating with for several years.

Connecting with Tides was relatively fast and easy, especially compared to other mental health resources I have previously utilized or attempted to utilize for CB and our family. I felt comfortable with Tides staff, that they took CB's situation seriously, and that they were cognizant of how CB's situation impacted the family as well.

CB was assigned a team and connected well with our home worker. CB would ask when our home worker would be coming and easily engaged with him, connecting on shared interests. CB showed interest in working with his home worker toward goals. CB required one instance of reaching out to the Tides Hotline after business hours. It was answered quickly and the person on the other side of the phone stayed engaged for nearly 45 minutes, helping me navigate a difficult situation and ultimately, until help arrived and took over.

Unfortunately, CB's other parent unilaterally discharged CB from the program in violation of court orders and CB was not able to continue his treatment or have a transitional last meeting with his home worker. This situation was out of Tides' control and through no fault of their own, the therapeutic relationship was terminated. Tides did reach out and offer their services in the future, should CB require them.

I am confident that without Tides' involvement during the period of time that CB was engaged, we would be in a much different situation at this time. I am grateful for their assistance during a very difficult time for our family. I would not hesitate to recommend them to other families or to call on them again in the future, if needed.

Sincerely,

Kellie B.