

Dear Chair Abney and Committee Members;

Thank you for allowing me to submit this message in strong support for H8180, which will establish a statewide mobile response and stabilization services program to provide rapid crisis response for children and youth. (MRSS)

MRSS has already proven its effectiveness over the past few years in providing rapid response, assessment and intervention for children and youth suffering severe mental challenges in a very cost effective manner. By providing a braided funding model that aligns Medicaid, commercial insurance, and state general revenue into a unified financing structure, it will ensure that MRSS services are delivered based upon clinical need rather than payer source. It will eliminate fragmentation that can delay care and limit access. Without this model, Rhode Island risks program instability, which all too frequently leads to increased costly hospital utilizations and poorer outcomes.

As someone who has been deeply involved in local and statewide healthcare issues and organizations, including former service as a board member of Tides Family Services, I can attest to the need for this program and for its benefits to be accessible to all children and youth in need.

Thank you,

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