



The Honorable Marvin Abney, Chair
House Finance Committee
State House
Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H8180
Children's Mobile Crisis and
Stabilization Services

May 12, 2026

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of House bill 8180. This act will establish statewide mobile response and stabilization services (MRSS) to provide rapid crisis response and short-term stabilization for children and youth in their homes and communities. The MRSS offers urgent on-site, in-home crisis de-escalation, aiming to reduce emergency room visits.

Adoption Rhode Island is a private non-profit organization dedicated to creating safety, permanency, and a sense of belonging in foster and adopted children, vulnerable youth, and families. We do this through education, advocacy, and compassionate service delivery. The populations we serve have experienced significant trauma and loss. We are a licensed behavioral health organization that provides community and office based behavioral health services. The children and families we serve, at times need emergency level behavioral interventions. Keeping children from needing hospitalization when they can remain at home is beneficial to the child and family.

Children and youth that face behavioral health crisis require rapid, responsive, and child focused interventions. The MRSS services seek to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations by providing immediate and expert care to families. Since 2022, pilot efforts (like Tides Family Services and Family Service of Rhode Island) have diverted over 90% of participating youth from emergency departments.

Overall, MRSS plays a critical role in a state's system of care. This program helps to prevent crisis from escalating and promotes the overall health and safety of children and their families. Mobil Response and Stabilization Services are considered evidenced-based and evidence informed practice, endorsed by SAMHSA. It is a proven, upstream intervention for children and youth. The model aligns with system-of-care principles and is often tailored with local context, making it an evidence-informed approach that is both flexible and high-quality.

In summary, I urge you to pass this bill. The MRSS program is a critical service that is a necessary part of the continuum of care for children and families.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darlene Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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