

Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Jennifer, and I am a parent from East Greenwich, RI. I am writing in strong support of H8180 and the continued support and sustainability of Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for children and families in Rhode Island.

As a parent, there is nothing more frightening than watching your child struggle during a behavioral health crisis and not knowing where to turn. Before learning about MRSS, I felt overwhelmed, alone, and afraid that the only option available was the emergency room or calling the police.

MRSS changed that for our family.

Instead of escalating the situation further, trained professionals came directly to our home, helped de-escalate the crisis, listened to our family, and connected us to supports that helped stabilize the situation. Most importantly, they treated my child with dignity and compassion during one of the hardest moments of our lives.

Services like MRSS are critical because crises do not only happen between 9 and 5 or in clinical settings. Families need access to immediate support in their homes, schools, and communities before situations become emergencies requiring hospitalization or out-of-home placement.

MRSS helps families remain together, supports children in their communities, and provides an alternative to emergency departments and law enforcement involvement whenever possible.

I urge you to support H8180 and continue investing in community-based behavioral health services for children and families across Rhode Island.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Jennifer

Sent from my iPad