

May 3, 2026

The Honorable Chairman Marvin Abney
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H8180– Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)

Good afternoon:

My name is Julie Michaels, parent of a 12-year-old child here in Rhode Island. I am writing today in strong support of H8180 because families like mine need a system we can rely on when our children are in crisis.

Like many families, we have experienced moments where our child was struggling emotionally or behaviorally, and we didn’t know where to turn. In those moments, what matters most is having someone respond quickly, come to your home, and help stabilize the situation—without delays, confusion, or barriers. Too often, families are left navigating a complicated system, making multiple calls, or ending up in the emergency room because there are no other options.

What makes H8180 so important is that it supports a system where help is available no matter what kind of insurance a family has—or if they have insurance at all. As a parent, I can tell you that in a crisis, the last thing you are thinking about is whether services will be covered, whether prior authorization is needed, or whether you can afford it. You just want help for your child.

By creating a funding model that brings payers together, this bill helps ensure that services like Mobile Response and Stabilization are available to all families, when they need them most. It also helps make sure that the people providing these services can continue to be there for families, instead of programs closing or being unavailable due to funding issues.

When families don’t have access to this kind of support, situations can escalate quickly. Children may end up in emergency rooms, hospitals, or even out-of-home placements that could have been avoided with the right help at the right time. That is not what any parent wants for their child.

H8180 is about creating a system that meets families where they are—in their homes, in their communities, and in their most difficult moments. It gives parents like me peace of mind knowing that we are not alone, and that there is a team we can call who will show up and help.

Sincerely,

Julie Michaels