



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS
MAYOR MARIA RIVERA

580 BROAD STREET
CENTRAL FALLS, RI 02863

OFFICE: (401) 727-7400
EMAIL: MAYORSOFFICE@CENTRALFALLSRI.US

Hon. Marvin Abney
Chair, House Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for H8180 (Casimiro)

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I write on behalf of the City of Central Falls in strong support of H8180 and the continued investment in Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for children and families across Rhode Island.

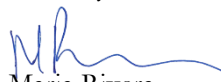
In a community like Central Falls, where many families face significant economic, linguistic, and social challenges, the need for accessible, immediate behavioral health support is both urgent and ongoing. Our families are navigating extraordinary pressures. Children are experiencing heightened levels of trauma and emotional distress, and too often, parents are left without clear or timely pathways to help when a child is in crisis.

MRSS has proven to be a critical intervention at precisely those moments when families need support the most. Rather than defaulting to emergency rooms, law enforcement involvement, or out-of-home placements, MRSS provides a clinically appropriate, community-based response. Trained professionals arrive quickly, de-escalate crises, stabilize the situation, and connect families to longer-term services. This model not only produces better outcomes for children but also preserves family unity and dignity.

Equally important is the way these services are delivered. MRSS meets families where they are with compassion, cultural competence, and respect. This approach builds trust in systems that many families have historically been reluctant to engage. From a municipal perspective, the benefits extend well beyond the individual household. When behavioral health crises go unaddressed, the impacts are felt across our schools, public safety systems, healthcare providers, and community organizations. MRSS reduces strain on these systems by intervening early and effectively, preventing escalation and promoting stability.

Rhode Island has made meaningful progress in strengthening its continuum of care for children's behavioral health. However, significant gaps remain—particularly in rapid response capacity. MRSS is a proven solution that bridges that gap, ensuring that children can remain safely in their homes, schools, and communities whenever possible. For these reasons, *I respectfully urge the Committee to pass H8180 and continue investing in MRSS as a vital component of our state's behavioral health infrastructure.*

Sincerely,



Maria Rivera
Mayor