

May 14, 2026

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

My name is Matt Raiche, and I serve as Board Chair of the Board of Directors for Tides Family Services. I am writing in strong support of H8180 and the continued investment in Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for Rhode Island's children and families.

Since helping launch Rhode Island's MRSS system in 2020, Tides Family Services has witnessed firsthand the significant impact this service has had on children and families in crisis. Statewide outcomes have remained consistently strong, with approximately 92% of youth stabilized safely in their homes and communities without the need for hospitalization or higher levels of care.

As a ten-year board member, I firmly believe MRSS represents the type of investment Rhode Island should continue to prioritize. It provides timely, community-based behavioral health support to children and families at the moment they need it most—often preventing unnecessary emergency room visits, police involvement, hospitalization, or out-of-home placement.

Children experiencing behavioral health crises deserve a response designed specifically for them. MRSS deploys trained behavioral health professionals directly to homes, schools, and community settings, helping stabilize situations safely while keeping families connected and supported.

This service not only improves outcomes for children and families but also strengthens the broader healthcare, education, and public safety systems by reducing strain on emergency departments, law enforcement, and child welfare services.

H8180 is critical to ensuring the long-term stability and sustainability of this proven statewide service model. I respectfully urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to Rhode Island's children and families.

Respectfully,



Matt Raiche

Board Chair, Tides Family Services