



Family Court of the State of Rhode Island  
One Barrance Plaza  
Providence, RI 02903

MICHAEL B. FORTE  
CHIEF JUDGE

May 14, 2026

**HAND DELIVERED**

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

Re: 2026 - H 8180

Dear Chair Abney and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance:

I write to comment on 2026 H 8180 entitled "Children's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services." The Court supports this legislation which seeks to establish a statewide comprehensive crisis intervention service that will act quickly and competently to address emergent mental health episodes in children and youth in their homes and in their community.

An adolescent's crisis in the home often leads to hospitalization. It has been the court's experience that once you take an adolescent out of the home, it's hard to put him/her back in. Accordingly, the Court agrees that immediate attention from a qualified mental health service provider could make a substantial difference. Hospitalization should be the last option considered.

For years, this state has been starved for community-based children's mental health services. Although the Court is ready and equipped to handle children and adolescents, the ultimate goal is to keep them out of the court system. It is my belief that the availability of a comprehensive mental health system for children and adolescents will reduce the need for hospitalization, provide crisis intervention, add immediate in-home services and avoid the need for judicial intervention.

The Court respectfully thanks the committee for this opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Very truly yours,

Michael B. Forte  
Chief Judge

MBF:nmp