



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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March 12, 2026

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan
Chairperson, House Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Letter of Support H7939 – AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE – ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE POLICIES

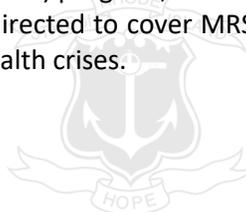
Dear Chairperson Donovan:

I write on behalf of the State of Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in support of [House Bill 7939](#) submitted on behalf of the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner. This legislation seeks to set a floor for commercial health insurance reimbursements beginning on January 1, 2027 for mobile response and stabilization services (MRSS) at the Medicaid reimbursement rate that is in effect on or after October 1, 2026. EOHHS has been aiding with implementation of MRSS in Rhode Island for years, with partner agencies Department of Children, Youth, and Families, and Department of Behavioral Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals.

MRSS is a behavioral health crisis intervention model that provides immediate de-escalation, stabilization services, and follow-up care. These services are delivered to provide rapid response to, assessment of, and early intervention for a child or youth through age 21 experiencing an acute mental health crisis. MRSS is a national model that provides a pathway for children and families to address a mental health crisis in the community, often avoiding costly ED visits, and providing a critical connection to ongoing services and supports. This model requires 24/7 staffing, with qualified staff on call to travel to any person 2-21 years of age in crisis, regardless of payor. To ensure that certified MRSS providers have the funding they need to keep staff prepared to respond at all times, insurance carriers' reimbursement rates must support the cost to provide this service. The goal of this legislation is to ensure appropriate payment to providers and access to services for families regardless of the type of insurance one has.

In 2025, the legislature passed two policies with the goals of ensuring that MRSS be the state's prioritized response to children's behavioral health crises:

- (1) RI Medicaid was directed to submit a State Plan Amendment to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to create a stand-alone Medicaid rate for providers certified to provide MRSS services, rather than the funding flowing through the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program; and
- (2) Commercial insurers were directed to cover MRSS for children and youth ages two through twenty-one in behavioral health crises.



This legislation seeks to complement the above 2025 polices and to further increase access to MRSS services. Ensuring that the commercial insurance reimbursements are no lower than the Medicaid will help reach this goal.

Thank you for your continued leadership and hard work on all matters related to the health of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Charest", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Richard Charest, R.Ph., MBA
Secretary
RI Executive Office of Health and Human Services

CC: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House
Lynne Urbani, Director of House Policy

