



March 10, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 211, State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: S2886 Support

Dear Chairwoman Murray and honorable members of the committee:

On behalf of Tides Family Services, I write to express our strong support for Senate Bill 2886, which establishes a joint commission to study ways to maximize revenue for child welfare and children's behavioral health services.

For decades, Tides Family Services has worked closely with Rhode Island's children, families, and communities to provide critical behavioral health and support services. As a community-based provider serving some of the state's most vulnerable young people, we see firsthand the growing demand for accessible, coordinated, and sustainable behavioral health services.

S2886 recognizes the importance of ensuring that Rhode Island is fully leveraging available federal funding streams to support the continuum of care for children and families. The legislation appropriately acknowledges that Medicaid and related federal programs—including Title IV-E, TANF, block grants, and other federal initiatives—play a vital role in sustaining child welfare and children's behavioral health services across the state.

By establishing a legislative commission to examine Medicaid transformation and identify opportunities to better coordinate and maximize federal resources, this bill creates an important forum for collaboration among policymakers, state agencies, and community providers. The commission's work will help ensure that Rhode Island's financing strategies support provider stability, protect access to services, and strengthen the systems that serve children and families.

At a time when providers are facing increasing service demands alongside fiscal pressures, thoughtful planning and coordination are essential. A comprehensive review of funding opportunities and system alignment will help Rhode Island sustain the community-based programs that families depend on every day.



TIDES FAMILY SERVICES
WE NEVER GIVE UP ON A KID... NEVER!

215 Washington St.
West Warwick
Rhode Island, 02893

Main Office - 401-822-1360
Fax - 401-823-4694
Tidesfs.org

Tides Family Services strongly supports S2886 and appreciates the General Assembly's leadership in examining how the state can maximize available resources to strengthen Rhode Island's children's behavioral health and child welfare systems.

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

Sincerely,

Beth Bixby, LICSW

Chief Executive Officer

Tides Family Services