



CITY OF CENTRAL FALLS  
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**Written Testimony in Support of S3065 & S3066  
Submitted by Mayor Maria Rivera, City of Central Falls**

Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of S3065 and S3066, legislation that will establish and sustain a comprehensive statewide system of Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for children and families in Rhode Island.

In Central Falls, we see every day the challenges that young people and families face when behavioral health needs escalate into crisis. Too often, families are left with limited options—calling 911, going to an emergency department, or navigating systems that are not designed to meet children where they are.

We have also seen what works.

Both Tides Family Services and Family Service of Rhode Island have responded in our communities when youth and families are in crisis. Their Mobile Response teams provide immediate, in-home, and community-based support that is clinically appropriate, culturally responsive, and centered on the needs of the family. This kind of response not only stabilizes situations in the moment, but also connects families to ongoing supports that prevent future crises.

For a city like Central Falls, this is critically important. When behavioral health professionals are able to respond, it reduces the burden on law enforcement and emergency services, and ensures that children receive care in a way that does not escalate trauma or remove them unnecessarily from their homes and schools.

S3066 ensures that this type of response is available statewide, consistently and reliably, regardless of where a child lives. S3065 ensures that providers are reimbursed fairly across payers, which is essential to maintaining a workforce and infrastructure capable of delivering 24/7 crisis response.

These bills are about building a system that works for families—not one that forces families to fit into the system.

I urge you to support S3065 and S3066 and ensure that all Rhode Island children and families have access to timely, appropriate behavioral health crisis response.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

**Maria Rivera**  
Mayor, City of Central Falls