



Together for Children. Families. Communities.

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray, Chairwoman

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: S3066 – Relating to Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Vice Chair Lauria, Secretary Urso and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), I write to express our strong support for S3066, legislation that strengthens coverage and reimbursement for Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for children and youth experiencing acute behavioral health crises.

RICCF represents a statewide network of organizations that provide critical services to children, youth, and families, including behavioral health care, crisis intervention, and community-based supports. Our members work on the front lines every day with families facing complex challenges, and we have seen firsthand the essential role MRSS plays in stabilizing children during moments of crisis.

S3065 builds upon Rhode Island’s existing MRSS framework by ensuring that all health insurers provide coverage for these services and reimburse certified providers at rates equal to or greater than the prevailing Medicaid rate established by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). This provision is critical to ensuring consistency, fairness, and long-term sustainability across the system.

MRSS is a cornerstone of a modern children’s behavioral health system. These services provide immediate, community-based crisis intervention, allowing trained clinicians to respond directly to homes, schools, and other settings where a child is experiencing a behavioral health emergency. This model helps de-escalate crises, stabilize youth, and connect families to ongoing care—while avoiding unnecessary emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and law enforcement involvement.

The evidence is clear—MRSS works. By intervening early and effectively, MRSS improves outcomes for children and families while also generating significant cost savings for both Medicaid and commercial insurers by reducing reliance on more expensive levels of care.

However, despite its success, the current system faces sustainability challenges. While Medicaid has established a reimbursement structure that reflects the cost of operating a 24/7 crisis response system, reimbursement from commercial insurers has not always been consistent. This creates strain on the limited number of providers responsible for delivering these services statewide.

S3065 addresses this issue by creating a minimum reimbursement standard, ensuring that all payers contribute fairly to the system that families rely on in times of crisis. In doing so, the legislation helps

stabilize Rhode Island's MRSS infrastructure and protects access to timely, community-based behavioral health care.

At a time when youth behavioral health needs are increasing, Rhode Island must continue to strengthen and sustain the services that support children and families in their communities. S3065 is an important step in that direction.

RICCF respectfully urges the committee to give S3065 favorable consideration.

Thank you for your leadership and your continued commitment to the well-being of Rhode Island's children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tanja Kubas Meyer". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Tanja Kubas Meyer
Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families