

Rhode Island Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

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Dear Chair and Honorable Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill **S3065**, which would require insurance reimbursement for mobile response and stabilization services at rates no less than Medicaid.

This legislation addresses a critical gap in Rhode Island's behavioral health system. Mobile crisis services are an essential component of timely, community-based mental health care, particularly for children and youth experiencing acute crises. However, inconsistent and inadequate reimbursement from private insurers has made it difficult for providers to sustain and expand these services.

By establishing payment parity with Medicaid, S3065 ensures that providers are fairly compensated for delivering high-quality, evidence-based care. This will strengthen the provider network, improve access to care, and reduce reliance on emergency departments and inpatient hospitalization—both of which are more costly and often less appropriate for behavioral health crises. Equitable reimbursement is not just a financial issue; it is a matter of access and public health. When providers are adequately supported, families can receive timely interventions in their homes and communities, preventing escalation and promoting better outcomes.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass S3065 and take this important step toward a more responsive and sustainable behavioral health system in Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the well-being of Rhode Islanders.

Sincerely,

Peter Pogacar
Immediate Past President
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics