



The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State of Rhode Island Senate
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support of S3065

Dear Chair Murray and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 3065.

This legislation is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) in Rhode Island. MRSS provides rapid, community-based crisis response to children and families, helping to stabilize crises in the home, reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, and prevent higher levels of care.

FSRI is a proud provider of MRSS as we have served hundreds of children and families with this highly effective model. We have seen first-hand the positive impact that MRSS has had in reducing emergency room utilization as well as in engaging children, youth, and families in behavioral health care services.

As Rhode Island continues to build and formalize its MRSS system, it is essential that reimbursement structures support the model's long-term viability across all payers. S3065 takes an important step in this direction by requiring commercial insurers to reimburse MRSS services at a rate equal to or greater than the prevailing integrated Medicaid rate once that rate is established.

Establishing this standard proactively will help ensure consistency across the system and provide greater financial stability for providers delivering these critical services. It also reinforces a shared commitment across payers to support a high-quality, evidence-based crisis response system for children and families.

By aligning reimbursement expectations in this way, Rhode Island can help protect access to MRSS, support the workforce, and ensure that services remain available regardless of a family's insurance coverage.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to strengthening the children's behavioral health system in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kelly-Palmer

Sarah Kelly-Palmer, LICSW
Chief of Behavioral Health