

The Honorable Chairwoman Murray  
Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Senate Lounge  
State House  
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support for S3066 – Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS)

Good afternoon Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Horizon Healthcare Partners, which represents six Rhode Island–based behavioral health organizations, we see firsthand the urgent need for a coordinated, accessible, and sustainable crisis response system for children and youth. S3066 represents a critical step toward strengthening that system through the establishment of a statewide Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) program.

From the provider perspective, one of the most important aspects of this legislation is its commitment to a braided funding model that aligns Medicaid, commercial insurance, and state general revenue into a unified financing structure. This approach is essential to ensuring that services are delivered based on clinical need rather than payer source. Today, fragmentation across funding streams creates real barriers—delays in care, administrative burden, and gaps in access—that directly impact the children and families we serve.

A braided funding model not only promotes equitable access regardless of insurance status, but also provides the financial stability necessary for community-based providers to sustain 24/7 crisis services. MRSS programs must be continuously available, highly responsive, and staffed by experienced clinicians. These are inherently resource-intensive services that cannot function effectively under fragmented or uncertain reimbursement structures. By maximizing federal financial participation and ensuring consistent reimbursement, S3066 strengthens the provider network and supports long-term system sustainability.

Our organizations also strongly support the bill’s alignment with national best practices, particularly the “no wrong door” approach. Families in crisis should be able to access timely, appropriate care wherever they turn—without navigating a complex or siloed system. MRSS serves as a reliable front door to Rhode Island’s children’s behavioral health system, helping to de-escalate crises in home and community settings and reducing unnecessary reliance on emergency departments and inpatient care.

Importantly, investing in MRSS is not only clinically appropriate—it is also cost-effective. When children receive the right care at the right time in the least restrictive setting, outcomes improve and system costs decrease. For providers, a well-designed MRSS system allows us to intervene earlier, coordinate more effectively, and deliver care that is both responsive and continuous.

On behalf of Horizon Healthcare Partners and our member organizations, we respectfully urge the Committee to support S3066 and advance a model that strengthens Rhode Island's behavioral health system for children and families. This legislation reflects a thoughtful, provider-informed approach to addressing longstanding gaps in crisis care and building a more equitable, sustainable system. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to improving behavioral health services across our state.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Pickering  
Director of Communications  
Horizon Healthcare Partners