



**DONALD R. GREBIEN
MAYOR**



March 23, 2026

**Written Testimony in Support of S3065 & S3066
Submitted by Mayor Donald R. Grebien, City of Pawtucket**

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.

As Mayor of Pawtucket, I have seen firsthand the growing behavioral health needs of our youth and the increasing complexity of crises facing families in our community. Too often, when a child is in crisis, the default response is law enforcement or an emergency department—settings that are not designed to meet the clinical and emotional needs of children and their families.

Recently, our community experienced a tragic incident at Lynch Arena that deeply impacted many of our young people and families. In the immediate aftermath, we needed a response that was rapid, compassionate, and rooted in behavioral health—not systems that escalate trauma.

Tides Family Services, through its Mobile Response and Stabilization Services team, was able to respond alongside the City—providing on-the-ground, family-centered support to those affected. Their team met youth and families where they were, helped stabilize an incredibly difficult situation, and ensured that care extended beyond the moment of crisis.

That is exactly what MRSS is designed to do—and why it must be available statewide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

S3066 establishes the framework to ensure that this type of response is not dependent on geography or circumstance, but instead is a reliable part of our behavioral health system. S3065 ensures that this system is financially sustainable by requiring fair reimbursement across payers, preventing gaps in access and ensuring providers can continue to deliver these critical services.

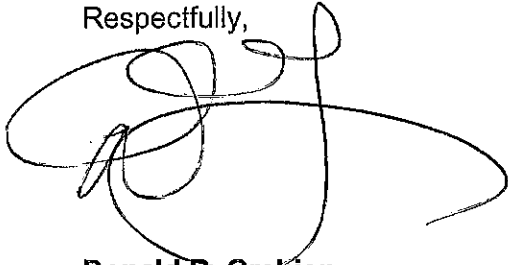
From a municipal perspective, this matters. When appropriate behavioral health responses are available, it reduces unnecessary reliance on police and emergency services, allows first responders to focus on public safety, and ensures that children receive the right care at the right time.

More importantly, it supports families in their homes, schools, and communities—where healing and stability are most likely to occur.

I urge you to support S3065 and S3066 and take this important step toward strengthening Rhode Island's response to children in crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Grebien', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Donald R. Grebien
Mayor, City of Pawtucket