



Family Court of the State of Rhode Island
One Barrance Plaza
Providence, RI 02903

MICHAEL B. FORTE
CHIEF JUDGE

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Health & Human Services
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: 2026 – S 3066

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

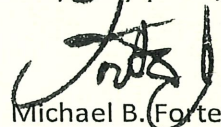
I write to comment on 2026- S 3066 entitled “Children’s Mobile Response and Stabilization Services”. The Court supports this legislation which seeks to establish a statewide comprehensive crisis intervention service that will act quickly and competently to address emergent mental health episodes in children and youth in their homes and in their community.

An adolescent’s crisis in the home often leads to hospitalization. It has been the court’s experience that once you take an adolescent out of the home, it’s hard to put him/her back in. Accordingly, The Court agrees that immediate attention from a qualified mental health service provider could make a substantial difference. Hospitalization should be the last option considered.

For years, this state has been starved for community-based children’s mental health services. Although the Court is ready and equipped to handle children and adolescents, the ultimate goal is to keep them out of the court system. It is my belief that the availability of a comprehensive mental health system for children and adolescent will reduce the need for hospitalization, provide crisis intervention, add immediate in-home services and avoid the need for judicial intervention.

The Court respectfully thanks the committee for this opportunity to comment on this proposed legislation.

Very truly yours,



Michael B. Forte
Chief Judge

MBF:nmp