



RHODE ISLAND POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

March 24, 2026

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

SLegislation@rilegislature.gov

SUPPORT S 3066

Dear Chair Murray and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, I write in support of the intent of S 3066, which seeks to establish a statewide system of mobile response and stabilization services for children experiencing behavioral health crises.

Law enforcement officers are frequently called to respond to situations involving youth in crisis. In many cases, these incidents would be better addressed through timely, community-based behavioral health interventions that can stabilize situations and connect families to appropriate services. The concept outlined in this legislation—to provide rapid, trauma-informed responses in a child's natural environment—aligns with that goal.

We appreciate the focus on reducing unnecessary involvement of law enforcement and emergency departments in behavioral health situations, while improving outcomes for children and families. Expanding access to appropriate crisis response services has the potential to benefit both the individuals in need and the broader public safety system.

At the same time, as this proposal moves forward, we encourage continued collaboration with law enforcement and other stakeholders to ensure that implementation is practical, well-coordinated, and sustainable. Clear protocols for coordination, communication, and resource allocation will be critical to the program's success.

The Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association supports the concept behind S 3066 and looks forward to continued engagement on its development.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Chief Sidney Wordell, Ret.

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Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Wordell", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Chief Sidney Wordell (ret.)
Executive Director
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association