

Rhode Island Chapter

INCORPORATED IN RHODE ISLAND

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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

I am writing to strongly support Senate Bill S3066, which establishes a statewide Children's Mobile Response and Stabilization Services program. This bill represents a transformative step forward in how Rhode Island responds to youth experiencing behavioral health crises. Too often, children in crisis are taken to emergency rooms or encounter law enforcement, environments that may not be equipped to provide appropriate, trauma-informed care. S3066 offers a better solution by creating a system of rapid, on-site response teams that can deliver care in homes, schools, and communities.

Mobile response and stabilization services are proven to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, keep families together, and connect youth to ongoing supports. By building a coordinated statewide program, this legislation ensures that all children—**regardless of where they live**—have access to timely and compassionate care when they need it most.

In addition to improving outcomes for youth and families, this approach is cost-effective and aligns with best practices in behavioral health care. It reflects a commitment to prevention, early intervention, and community-based solutions.

I urge the Committee to pass S3066 and help create a more humane, effective, and equitable system of care for Rhode Island's children.

Thank you for your leadership and your dedication to improving the health and well-being of our state's youth.

Sincerely,

Peter Pogacar
Immediate Past President
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics