

WEST WARWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING

Miriam A. Duffy School

10 Harris Avenue

West Warwick, RI 02893

March 23, 2026

The Honorable Melissa Murray, Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Room 214
State House

RE: S3066 - SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee:

I write in strong support of S3066, legislation to establish a statewide Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) system for children and youth in Rhode Island.

As Superintendent of West Warwick Public Schools, I can say clearly that our district relies on MRSS as a critical component of our student support system. When students experience behavioral health crises, MRSS provides an immediate, appropriate, and effective response that allows us to stabilize situations in school and connect families with the support they need.

Without MRSS, schools are too often left with limited and inappropriate options—calling 911, sending a student to the emergency room, or involving law enforcement. These responses are disruptive, can be traumatic for students, and often fail to address the underlying issues.

MRSS changes that dynamic. It brings trained behavioral health professionals directly to the child—whether in school, at home, or in the community—and provides the kind of family-centered, developmentally appropriate intervention that schools cannot provide on their own.

However, we are increasingly concerned that administrative and structural changes to the MRSS system could undermine its effectiveness. As a district that depends on timely, flexible, and child-centered response, any shift away from the current model risks:

- Delays in response time
- Reduced access to experienced providers
- A move toward systems that are not designed for children

These changes would have a direct and negative impact on our ability to support students in crisis and maintain safe, stable learning environments.

S3066 is essential because it protects the integrity of a model that works. It ensures that MRSS remains:

- Accessible statewide
- Rapid in response
- Grounded in the needs of children and families

This legislation will provide the stability and clarity needed for schools to continue relying on MRSS as a trusted partner in supporting students.

I urge you to support S3066 and ensure that Rhode Island's children—and the schools that serve them—have access to the right response in moments of crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Tarasevich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Tarasevich, [M.Ed](#)
Superintendent of Schools