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April 9, 2025

ATTN: Chairperson Donovan  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
Rhode Island House

RE: In support of House Bill, H6118

Dear Chairperson Murray and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services committee,

My name is Dayna Gladstein, LICSW, and I am the President and CEO of Newport Mental Health in Middletown, RI. I would like to include my written testimony in support of H6118 (as well as its companion Senate bill, S0263). This bill is critical to ensure that all children in Rhode Island, regardless of their insurance coverage, have access to the behavioral health care they need in times of crisis.

Newport Mental Health has offered Mobile Response and Stabilization Services (MRSS) for the past year, and similar services since 2022. Our data shows it is a significant deterrent to hospitalization for youth in Newport County. In the past year, 76% of our MRSS clients were successfully stabilized in the community and connected to ongoing care. We know firsthand just how impactful the availability of this service is for children in need and their families. But right now, these essential services are only available to children on Medicaid through Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs). This legislation is crucial to ensure that insurance companies cover this service in all cases, allowing access for children across Rhode Island.

By passing H6118, we will close the gap in access to these life-saving services by requiring commercial insurance providers to cover children's mobile response and stabilization services as a bundled service with a rate that is at least equal to the Medicaid rate. This will ensure that all families, regardless of what health plan they are covered by, have access to the care and support they need during times of crisis. By ensuring these services are covered for all youth, we support not only individual well-being but also community health and family stability.

I urge the Committee to pass H6118, ensuring that all Rhode Island children and their families have access to care in moments of crisis, regardless of their insurance coverage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Respectfully submitted,

*Dayna Gladstein*

Dayna Gladstein, LICSW  
President & CEO