

May 1, 2024

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
Chairman, House Committee on Finance  
RI House of Representatives  
By Email To: [HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseFinance@rilegislature.gov)

**Re: In support of H-7204**

Dear Chair Abney:

We write in support of Representative Shallcross Smith's bill, H7204, to sustain Rhode Island's Psychiatry Resources Network for moms (Moms PRN) and children (PediPRN).

In our work with families, we hear regularly about the state's lack of sufficient numbers of mental health providers for children. Too many families are unable to find providers who can see their children in a timely manner. As a result, Pediatricians are often asked to pinch hit and help families navigate mental health challenges.

The Psychiatry Resource Network (PediPRN) has supported pediatric healthcare professionals – working with over 1550 children – as they help their patients manage in the absence of direct access to mental health professionals. The program empowers health care professionals by building competency and increasing patient access to mental health care by offering frontline clinicians same day specialized clinical teleconsultations that include resource/referral support and ongoing professional education.

As the state works to encourage more mental health professionals to enter the profession and stay in the state, the PediPRN is an important support that the state should continue to fund.

We thank Representative Shallcross Smith for introducing this legislation and we hope to continue to work with this Committee to support ongoing efforts to improve access to children's behavioral health services.

Sincerely,

/s/

Samuel Salganik, JD  
Executive Director  
[Salganik@ripin.org](mailto:Salganik@ripin.org)

