



To: House Health & Human Services Committee
From: Karen Malcolm, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition, ProtectRIHealth@gmail.com
Date: April 30, 2025
Re: **SUPPORT H5461 – PediPRN & MomsPRN Resource Network**

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island non-profits and consumer groups with a shared mission to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all. The Coalition **supports House Bill 5461** to establish the PediPRN and MomsPRN resource network account as a permanent funding stream and thanks Senator DiMario for her work on this important legislation.

The need for pregnancy, postpartum, and pediatric access to mental health support is urgent and growing. Rhode Island's primary care practitioners have become the frontline for initial mental health care and yet do not always have extensive training in mental healthcare or knowledge in navigating the complex and overtaxed system to connect patients to care. Rhode Island's MomsPRN and PediPRN programs help address this gap, supporting 1,214 healthcare professionals at 450 practices across the state to serve 5,179 perinatal and pediatric patients (through October 2024).

The exceptional and effective PediPRN and MomsPRN network faces a funding dilemma. Federal grant funding for MomsPRN has ended and federal grant funding for PediPRN is scheduled to end in 2026. If no funding is allocated, these programs will close. H5461 will establish a permanent funding mechanism for both the MomsPRN and PediPRN programs through a reasonable health plan assessment.

The MomsPRN and PediPRN networks mean that help is just a phone call away for pediatricians and primary care doctors. These critical networks have been proven effective and are keeping kids and moms out of upstream, more costly care. We urge your support.

Thank you.

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include: Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, Central Providence Opportunities: A Health Equity Zone (CPO-HEZ), United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care
