

April 11, 2025

Mr. Samuel Salganik, Executive Director

RIPIN

300 Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 300

Warwick, RI 02888

Dear Sam,

Thank you for bringing to our attention the Governor's proposed FY2026 budget does not extend funding after December 31, 2025 for RIPIN's Healthcare Advocate, the officially designated ombudsman program to assist dual eligible Rhode Islanders. Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island is pleased to provide this letter of support for RIPIN's (Rhode Island Parent Information Network) aim to maintain stability of this vital program.

As the State of Rhode Island shifts to a new integrated insurance coverage solution for dually eligible Rhode Islanders, with the ending of the demonstration of Neighborhood's INTEGRITY Medicare-Medicaid Plan (MMP) on January 1, 2026, it is important to maintain the ombudsman program, which serves all dual eligible Rhode Islanders to assist in the transition to new coverage options.

Neighborhood remains committed to working alongside RIPIN and other community partners to ensure Rhode Islanders with complex care needs have access to high quality, coordinated healthcare services. Neighborhood believes the duals eligible coverage options available to Rhode Islanders are enhanced by having a strong ombudsman function led by RIPIN. Collaboration is key to successfully delivering integrated health care services. Neighborhood is encouraged that RIPIN will be able to secure the State funding to protect and strengthen its Healthcare Advocate program.

Best Regards,

*Melissa Husband*

Melissa Husband  
Chief of Staff