



Testimony Re: Rhode Island Department of Health FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised Budgets

March 20, 2026

Dear Chair Tanzi & Members of the Subcommittee on Human Services of the House Finance Committee,

Thank you for your time and giving me the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Rhode Island Department of Health's FY 2027 and FY 2026 agency budgets. As a Supervisor for the Healthy Families America Program and Infant Mental Health Associate, I greatly appreciate the leadership the Rhode Island General Assembly took last year to provide funding through RIDOH's budget to sustain RI MomsPRN as its federal funding ended, and I support the Governor's FY 2027 proposal to continue this investment.

RI MomsPRN is a very important program for providers of the community to give timely mental health consultation and professional education. This program provides various resources for us to best support our client's mental health, thus supporting the children of Rhode Island. As seen in many of our home visits, mothers have a lot to balance when it comes to having children, some doing it all on their own. I personally have accessed this program to quickly provide my clients with resources that accept their insurance and are open to taking new clients as this can be difficult to find at times. The readiness of the program is extremely beneficial to us, the client, and their families. I also encourage similar funding support for PediPRN as its federal funding concludes.

Continued General Assembly support for statewide Psychiatry Resource Network services, including RI MomsPRN and PediPRN, is critical. These programs empower frontline clinicians, help prevent costly downstream health outcomes, and ensure pregnant and postpartum women and children receive timely, evidence-based mental health care when it matters most. For these reasons, I respectfully urge continued appropriation within RIDOH's state agency budget, along with the passage of related legislation, to sustain both programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Lauren Serafin'.

Lauren Serafin, IMH-E®