

March 20, 2026

Representatives Teresa Tanzi and Shallcross Smith

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in regard to the continuance of detrimental funding needed for the Rhode Island Maternal Psychiatry Resource Network (RI MomsPRN). A teleconsultation line specifically for **Perinatal Mental Health** (PMH) helps not just moms, but babies and their families!

I had dealt with postpartum depression after my second pregnancy and could have benefited from support. It was during a time when postpartum was just becoming more recognized. It would have been comforting to know I wasn't alone with dealing with what I was experiencing.

I also had a sister who had serious mental health issues. She committed suicide when her children were 5 and 18 months old. Being managed by a family practitioner was not enough support for the depth of her issues. If the family practitioner had access psychiatric teleconsultation with perinatal experts, she may have received the mental healthcare she so desperately needed.

PMH affects nearly 20,000 women in our state alone. These conditions cost \$640 million in lost wages and productivity of the mother and address poor health outcomes for the mom and child.

The teleconsultation line has provided much needed support to clinicians to enable them to help women and families find the resources they need to navigate the complex issues facing them and their families.

Your support is critical to making sure these women and families find the help they need!

Thank you,

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