

Dear Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name Adrialy Hernández , and I am a **parent/caregiver** and a member of **Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE)**. I am writing in support of **House Bill No. 8268** and the continued funding of the **PediPRN consultation program**.

As a parent, I know how important it is for young children to receive support early when they are struggling with social-emotional, behavioral, developmental, or mental health challenges.

Many families do not always know where to turn for help, and pediatricians are often the first people families speak to about concerns with their child. Programs like PediPRN help pediatric providers better support children and connect families to the services they need.

At a time when Rhode Island is facing shortages in mental health providers and pediatric specialists, programs like PediPRN are critical for helping families access support early before challenges become crises.

Every child deserves the opportunity to grow, thrive, and receive the care and support they need during the earliest years of life.

I respectfully urge you to support House Bill No. 8268 and continue investing in the mental health and wellbeing of Rhode Island's children and families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adrialy Hernández

Member, Parents Leading for Educational Equity (PLEE)