

Individual Testimony Template: Support RI MomsPRN and PediPRN

May 14, 2026

Dear Chairperson Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am child and adolescent psychiatry fellow who has been practicing psychiatry for a total of almost 6 years and practicing child and adolescent psychiatry in Rhode Island for two of those years. I see patients in both Providence and East Providence, but my patients live all over the state of Rhode Island.

I support House Bill 8268, sponsored by Representative Shallcross Smith. This bill will require that the RI MomsPRN and PediPRN teleconsultation lines are funded and able to continue supporting providers across the state like me.

There continues to be a State of Emergency for Children's Behavioral Health. Rhode Island has a child and adolescent psychiatrist shortage and is currently unable to sufficiently address mental health care needs. As an example, patients wait for up to a year to be seen in the Bradley Hospital outpatient psychiatry clinic. PediPRN provides primary care pediatricians with the tools to recommend mental health treatment and medication and can greatly help ameliorate the mental health specialist shortage. The PediPRN phone line is already widely used by primary care pediatricians, and I urge you to continue to fund it so that fewer children are left without the treatment necessary for their well-being. Early treatment of mental health disorders is key for improved long-term outcomes.

Thank you for the leadership that the General Assembly has shown in the past in extending the funding for these programs. Without a predictable and permanent source of funding, the PediPRN program will be forced to close, leaving providers without access to essential support for their patients with mental and behavioral healthcare needs. **I urge you to pass House Bill 8268 to make sure these programs can continue the vital work they are doing, supporting primary care providers and families across the state.**

Please reach out to me at any time if you would like to discuss further.

Kind regards,

Eryn Yamin, MD (she/her)

Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellow (CF-2)

Brown University

Phone (Bradley Outpatient Clinic): 401-432-1119

eyamin@brownhealth.org