

# Rhode Island Chapter

INCORPORATED IN RHODE ISLAND

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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## **RIAAP Testimony in Support of HB8268**

House Finance Committee

Dear Chairman Abney and members of the committee,

I'm writing to request your urgent support of HB8268, which would establish funding for the PediPRN and MomsPRN programs in Rhode Island. As a practicing pediatrician for the past 25 years, I have seen a larger and larger proportion of my workday dedicated to managing psychiatric conditions in children. Part of this is due to higher acuity, part is due to a shortage in psychiatric providers to provide this care.

The PediPRN started as a pilot project, but has become an **essential program** which pediatricians rely on to provide support as we navigate more complex, and higher volume of psychiatric cases in our offices. I use PediPRN at least once per month to help me assess complicated cases, navigate through medication side effects, and provide referral supports for children whose needs exceed my qualifications. **Without this program, I fear that the standard of psychiatric care for children in Rhode Island will suffer.**

**I was disappointed to see that the governor's budget did not include funding for PediPRN**, but hopeful that we can pass this bill to sustain this well-established, successful program for the future. As things stand, funding stands to run out in the fall. Without your support, we risk losing it forever.

Thank you for your support...

Gregory Fox, MD, FAAP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Fox".

Advocacy Chair  
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