

To: House Finance Committee
From: Michelle Beller, MD
Date: May 14, 2026
Re: Support for H-8268, The Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act

I am a primary care pediatrician at Barrington Pediatric Associates and a member of the Rhode Island RIAAP. I support the proposed legislation to provide a permanent funding stream to sustain the MomsPRN and PediPRN programs. This is in line with the Right from the Start Campaign's priorities for supporting the mental health of children.

As a pediatrician, I care for patients with a variety of mental health challenges. Access to child psychiatrists is limited— as a result, I am prescribing psychiatric medications for increasingly complex patients. PediPRN has been an essential resource for myself and my colleagues in these instances. For example, I consulted pediPRN for a patient with ADHD. The patient had been having challenges academically as well as emotionally. However, he had difficulties tolerating a variety of stimulants due to adverse effects. Consulting with PediPRN helped me to figure out a better medication for him that is both more tolerable and effective. Had I not had access to pediPRN, I would not have felt comfortable continuing to manage this patient's medication, and would have referred him to a child psychiatrist. This would have delayed care and increased health care costs. Sustaining this program will allow me to continue to use this resource regularly as other clinical questions arise.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony and considering my recommendation to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Beller, MD