

May 14, 2026

Rhode Island State House of Representatives
House Committee on Finance

Re: Testimony in Support of H-8339 – Joint Resolution Making an Appropriation of \$500,000 to the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN)

Dear Chair Abney and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for this opportunity to write in strong **support of H-8339**, a joint resolution that would provide a \$500,000 state appropriation to RIPIN in FY27. This investment would strengthen a proven, statewide infrastructure of peer-to-peer support that helps Rhode Islanders navigate special education, health care, disability, and health aging systems—so that families can access services, resolve problems before they become crises, and participate fully in their schools and communities.

RIPIN’s work is straightforward: we help people get answers, understand their rights and options, and take the next step—especially when systems are confusing, fragmented, or intimidating. We do this through a peer-led model grounded in lived experience. Many of our staff and board members are parents, caregivers, people with disabilities, and family members of people with disabilities. That lived experience is not incidental; it is our core expertise. It is also why Rhode Islanders turn to RIPIN when the stakes are high: a child’s Individualized Education Program (IEP), a denial of medically necessary care, a gap in Early Intervention services, a challenging hospital discharge, or a hard-to-navigate transition to adult services.

In preparing for this hearing, we asked our community members to complete a survey to show their support for RIPIN. **That call-to-action garnered 237 responses from 33 cities and towns, with most sharing brief stories of RIPIN’s impact on their families.** Those responses are attached to this testimony, allowing you to hear about RIPIN through the words of our community.

RIPIN’s history: 35 years of trusted, statewide service

RIPIN was founded in 1991 by parents of children with special health care needs who recognized a persistent problem: families raising children with disabilities were expected to navigate complex education and health systems without clear information, without support, and often without anyone who could translate policy and procedure into practical steps. In 1991, RIPIN was designated as Rhode Island’s federally supported Parent Training and Information Center (PTIC)—a designation we have held continuously for 35 years—reflecting longstanding expertise in special education rights, advocacy, and family engagement.

Over time, as Rhode Islanders asked for help with issues that did not fit neatly into a single “system,” RIPIN grew to meet the real-world needs of families across the lifespan. Today, RIPIN supports infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities, caregivers, older adults, and people with complex health needs—while staying rooted in the same purpose that brought our founders together: ensuring that people are not left alone to figure out essential services on their own.

Impact: measurable results for families, schools, and the State

RIPIN’s impact is both personal and measurable. On the special education side, RIPIN provides individualized guidance to families statewide—helping parents understand evaluations, eligibility, accommodations, IEP services, dispute resolution options, and transition planning. In 2025, RIPIN provided individualized special education support to more than 2,000 families, attended approximately 650 IEP meetings alongside parents and caregivers, and educated roughly 3,000





family members through live special education workshops and webinars. We also produce practical online trainings that families can access anytime; in 2025, these resources were viewed nearly 10,000 times.

This work helps children receive appropriate services earlier, strengthens family-school collaboration, and reduces the likelihood that misunderstandings escalate into costly disputes. When families are well-informed and supported, IEP meetings are more productive, communication improves, and schools can focus resources on instruction and service delivery rather than conflict management. In short, RIPIN helps families participate meaningfully in a system that is technically complex, time-sensitive, and deeply consequential for a child's long-term outcomes.

RIPIN also serves as a critical resource for Rhode Islanders navigating health coverage and access-to-care barriers. Since 2018, RIPIN's Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program has helped more than 26,000 Rhode Islanders save more than \$10 million in health care costs by resolving insurance denials and appeals, addressing billing errors, correcting coverage problems, and helping people access the coverage they are eligible for. This milestone reflects not only direct financial relief for families, but also avoided downstream costs—when people can obtain timely care, they are less likely to experience health deterioration that results in preventable emergency department use or hospitalization.

Over the past ten years, RIPIN has also developed a suite of programs and supports serving older adults. It turns out that the systems that serve vulnerable older adults can be just as confusing and intimidating as the systems that serve children with disabilities, and families can benefit just as much from the support of a RIPIN peer professional. One RIPIN program helping high risk low-income older adults was evaluated by the Brown School of Public Health and found to be associated with reduced hospital admissions and reduced Medicaid expenditures of \$7,000 per-member-per-year. Another program helps older hospital patients get the support in place to discharge to home and community settings, avoiding long nursing home stays. RIPIN programs have helped more than 6,500 older adults manage their pre-diabetes, chronic pain, or other chronic diseases, and new RIPIN programs help older Rhode Islanders prevent falls.

Across programs, RIPIN's model is designed to be accessible and equitable: families can reach us through workshops, community partnerships, and direct one-to-one support. We meet people where they are—geographically and culturally—and we help translate complex rules into action steps. For policymakers, this matters because Rhode Island's systems are only as strong as the ability of residents to use them. RIPIN functions as a bridge between policy intent and lived reality.

Why H-8339 matters: stable, flexible funding for a statewide public good

H-8339 provides a modest but meaningful level of general support for a nonprofit that performs an essential statewide function. Much of RIPIN's work is supported through time-limited, program-specific contracts and grants. Those funding streams are important, but they are often restricted in ways that do not match the realities of how Rhode Islanders seek help—where a single family may need assistance across education, health, and disability systems at the same time. A general appropriation allows RIPIN to sustain core capacity (trained peer staff, intake infrastructure, bilingual access, data systems, and community education) and respond quickly to emerging needs—without leaving families behind because their situation does not fit neatly into a single funding category.

If enacted, RIPIN would use this \$500,000 appropriation to protect and strengthen the front-line capacity that Rhode Islanders rely on most, particularly maintaining and expanding support for families navigating special education. Though RIPIN has been a resource to families for 35 years, we receive no general revenue support for this work. This funding will also help RIPIN preserve the



organizational infrastructure that allows us to coordinate across programs, track outcomes, and remain accountable to both families and the State. This investment is also timely: as federal and other funding sources have become less reliable, families increasingly need an independent, trusted navigator to help them access services that already exist in law and policy.

From the State’s perspective, supporting RIPIN is a practical, preventive investment. In education, early, informed problem-solving helps avoid conflict and due process, and ensure that resources are tailored to best meet the needs of students and families. RIPIN helps Rhode Islanders use systems more effectively—improving outcomes while reducing avoidable cost pressures.

For these reasons, RIPIN respectfully urges the Committee to support H-8339 and include this appropriation in the FY27 budget. Thank you for your time, for your attention to the needs of Rhode Island families, and for your continued commitment to ensuring that public systems work for the people they are designed to serve.

Sincerely,

/s/

Samuel Salganik, JD
Executive Director
Salganik@ripin.org

The attached appendix includes signatures, residence towns and zip codes, and stories from 237 Rhode Islanders from 33 cities and towns whose lives were impacted by RIPIN’s work.

Responses: Sign on to show your support for RIPIN

| # | First Name | Last Name | City/Town | Zip Code | How did RIPIN support you or your family? (Optional) |
|----|------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|---|
| 1 | Kimberly | Rauch | Hopkinton | 02832 | Helped my father access state services. |
| 2 | Debbie | Mergner | Cumberland | 02864 | I have a special-needs daughter that they've helped me self plenty of problems with insurance programs. It's just nice to know. We have them to count on when we need some help and guidance. |
| 3 | Emma | Musco | Coventry | 02816 | RIPIN helped support my son who is deaf with bilateral cochlear implants. RIPIN is a necessary agency in Rhode Island to support parents who are navigating their child's disability at all stages, from Early Intervention to IEPs in school to transitions to high school. |
| 4 | Tanya | Brodd | East Providence | 02914 | <p>RIPIN was invaluable when I moved to RI from out of state. Having a peer supported group that knows how my family is and understands the day to day is extremely helpful. I have a child who is moderately impacted by autism and making sure his needs get met as he grows into a teenager and adult is extremely important. Talking to people who have been through this stage before is vital in order to help my child (who is now 13) become the most independent member of our society that he can be.</p> <p>He wants to have a job making food, he wants to live in his own house, he wants to vote - all things that RIPIN can help connect me with the services that can help make that happen. And who have had loved ones go through the same thing. There really is nothing like it.</p> <p>Fiscal responsibility is important but investing in the most vulnerable of our state and those who support them shows where our true values lie. As a state, taking care of organizations like RIPIN (especially in these times!) means more than ever.</p> |
| 5 | Jillian | Belanger | East Providence | 02916 | |
| 6 | Arlene | Baptiste | Woonsocket | 02895 | I have learned a lot to be able to support my nieces with their dyslexia diagnosis. |
| 7 | Jennifer | Ricci | Johnston | 02919 | |
| 8 | Lenus | Baptiste | Woonsocket | 02895 | RIPIN has helped me with billing concerns. |
| 9 | Stephen | Cavalieri | Bristol | 02809 | Any help with Medicare, Private Health Insurance, Medicaid and anyone with disabilities needing guidance with State or Federal laws can be referred to RIPIN for free help. Their staff are experts, if they don't know the answer, they will get it for you. Great staff assisting with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. |
| 10 | Alexandra | Cirillo | Barrington | 02806 | Helped our family get the support we needed during a difficult time for my daughter. They were wonderful and helped get us on track and it was so nice for me as a mother to have this support navigating something so challenging for our family. When they called me back to check in and see how things were going it was like a big warm hug and helped us keep on going advocating for our girl. |
| 11 | Mark | Cirillo | Barrington | 02806 | |
| 12 | Megan | Mainzer | Middletown | 02842 | RIPIN has hosted bilingual workshops for our MLL families here in Middletown to help families understand the special education process and system. It has been a huge asset for our families to know about all the resources that RIPIN can help families access. |
| 13 | Scott | Caron | Smithfield | 02828 | Helped me navigate problems with insurance paymentts. |
| 14 | Helen | Adediran | Providence | 02905 | |
| 15 | Mary | Johnson | Cumberland | 02864 | When my son was in early intervention, RIPIN provided me with a parent consultant. The parent consultant helped with both transition to pre-K and K. RIPIN also helped me to understand and learn how to prepare and I.E.P. They told me about the Katie Beckett waiver; and I was able to get my autistic child many services from the Autism project. RIPIN also helped when I was trying to get services for my adult son. They provided me with the questionnaire that would be reviewed at a zoom meeting with DHS to determine the level of my son's needs so that I was well prepared for the meeting. I always recommend RIPIN to parents. |
| 16 | Michelle | Boyajian | Warwick | 02886 | RIPIN gives our family peace of mind. We know that they are always available for any special needs questions and support. |
| 17 | Michelle | Fortin | Coventry | 02816 | RIPIN is my go to for everything now. They give me hope, kindness and insight. They take away overwhelming worries and guide you through the process every step. I am truly grateful for RIPIN. |

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| 18 | Bethany | Blakeney | Woonsocket | 02895 | RIPIN has supported our family several times this year, during our daughter's very first year of preschool. They've helped me grow into a stronger advocate for her at a time when we had no one else to turn to for guidance in navigating this new chapter of our lives. Our gratitude for what they do goes far beyond what words can express. Their work has truly inspired me, and I hope that one day I can be part of it—supporting other families the way they've supported ours. |
| 19 | Dinah | Centeio | Westerly | 02808 | RIPIN has been helpful for our family multiple times in the past 10 years. Grateful for the knowledge and awareness to be able to successfully advocate for my childrens educational needs. |
| 20 | Maryclaire | Knight | Providence | 02905 | RIPIN builds a strong support network for families with children experiencing atypical or special needs. This support is invaluable to ensuring parents are included in the planning of services needed for their children creating a stronger circle of care toward a successful adult life. |
| 21 | Deborah | Bates Bridgmon | West Warwick | 02893 | After a serious accident, someone reached out to RIPIN to help me and guide me. I appreciate all that has been done for me. |
| 22 | Naoemi | Raimondi | Charlestown | 02813 | Support services, webinar, and programs |
| 23 | Silvermoon | LaRose | Charlestown | 02813 | |
| 24 | Pauline | Imbruglia | Cranston | 02910 | RIPIN is a wonderful community resource. |
| 25 | Kevin | Plunkett | Westerly | 02891 | I was a RIPIN Board Member from 2016-2022. I have seen the assistance they have given to the community when State, Community and School cannot assist a child and adult in need. |
| 26 | Genevieve | Brennan | Westerly | 02891 | RIPIN has helped my family tremendously in the past. They connected our family with The Fogarty center, giving our son HBTS support. They helped us navigate 504 plans, and IEP. Connected our family with counseling and full support every step of the way. We are truly thankful for this program. |
| 27 | Charles | Haberle | North Kingstown | 02852 | Provided support and resources for son who has a life-long intellectual disability. He has been able to secure employment, now is able to live independently, and has just gotten married to a woman who also has an intellectual disability. |
| 28 | Anthony | Weston | Scituate | 02857 | RIPIN assisted me with negotiating channels for health insurance and snap benefits. |
| 29 | Donna | DiMichele | Cranston | 02910 | As I age in place, I see that services and support from RIPIN will be an important resources for my family. |
| 30 | Deborah | Taylor | Westerly | 02891 | They helped me through a very difficult time when I was chosen for a liver transplant. They hejped me arrange my health insurance and other necessary social and financial supports about housing, food, etc. |
| 31 | Catherine | Auclair | Pawtucket | 02860 | They helped me get housekeeping services that I needed |
| 32 | Charles | Pistocco | Providence | 02909 | Help with health insurance (dental). The provider (MetLife) was denying a necessary covered claim. |
| 33 | Diane | Cerep | Cranston | 02910 | My husband was on the committee that formed RIPIN and they have been there for our family ever since it began.. They have helped us get the technology that my daughter needs as well as funding for her small business. It has always been a comfort to know that RIPIN is there when we need their help in our journey through life with a disability. |
| 34 | Catherine | Pronteau | West Warwick | 02893 | With my son's IEP. |
| 35 | Trinity | Flores | Pawtucket | 02860 | RIPIN has provided me an opporunity to better understand how to use my voice and equips me with the knowledge nessasary to better advocate for my child and others. |
| 36 | Emily | Garthee | Warwick | 02865 | |
| 37 | Sandra | Rivera | Warwick | 02889 | |
| 38 | Diane | Silva | Coventry | 02816 | RIPIN offers an abundance of educational opportunities for parents. Classes in person, on zoom and there are a bunch of prerecorded ones offered up to parents and professionals. I was able to be part of the first parent cohort of the Parent Leadership Training Institute in 2024, this was an amazing opportunity to improve my advocacy skills, work with others, learn in a diverse environment and find support from fellow parents. RIPIN staff are so knowledgeable and share their lives experiences in order to help guide you in decision making. They offer a variety of programs and services for people across the lifespan, it's all important and necessary work. |

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|----|----------|-----------------|------------------|-------|--|
| 39 | Carolina | Roberts-Santana | Providence | 02907 | <p>RIPIN has been part of my family's journey from multiple perspectives, both professionally and personally. As a state employee, I served on the Family Voices board, and as a parent, I participated in the Parent Leadership Training. These experiences deepened my understanding of systems, strengthened my advocacy skills, and connected me with a community that truly understands the realities families face.</p> <p>RIPIN has also been directly involved in my family's life. My husband worked there, and my children have participated in their events over the years. Seeing my son grow into a Youth Advisory Project (YAP) member has been especially meaningful. It reflects not only his growth, but also the way RIPIN creates opportunities for young people to find their voice and build confidence.</p> <p>What stands out most is how RIPIN supports the entire family. Their work goes beyond information. They build community, develop leaders, and create pathways for both parents and youth to feel heard, prepared, and empowered.</p> |
| 40 | Barry | Marshall | East Providence | 02915 | They worked with my adult son to clarify his health benefits and retain his disability. Their patience, knowledge, skill and constant dependable service over time, make RIPIN one of the most valued organizations to our sons safety, health and recovery. |
| 41 | Ada | Gómez | Providence | 02908 | Conocimiento y desvolvimiento sobre el IPE. Soluciones para servicios y abogacía de padres. |
| 42 | Crystal | Greene | Exeter | 02822 | <p>RIPIN helped me to work More collaboratively with our school district to support three of our four children. As a graduate of their PLTI program, I have strengthened my advocacy skills to more effectively advocate on Capitol Hill for bills that support children of all abilities, granting them equal access to education and overall health. I now give back as a PLTI mentor and am forever grateful for all that RIPIN has done to help our family.</p> |
| 43 | Sharon | Kochan | East Providence | 02915 | |
| 44 | Moira | Hinderer | Providence | 02905 | |
| 45 | Georgia | Conley | Hopkinton | 02832 | Ripin educate and empower me to be an advocate parent by providing me with tools needed to attend IEP meetings and advocating for my children and several other community children . |
| 46 | Sandi | Andrrwd | Lincoln | 02965 | |
| 47 | Thomas | Cordeiro | West Warwick | 02893 | I'm not sure if I have received support from RIPIN. I do have a child that has an IEP. I was looking to help support in any way possible. I'm a single parent of 2 children. |
| 48 | Jessica | Slesinger | Cumberland | 02864 | I reached out to RIPIN last year when I was feeling overwhelmed with all of the paperwork I needed to submit for my son who was transitioning into adult services. I came into RIPIN with my pile of paperwork and my mind was quickly put at ease when the RIPIN staff knew exactly what I needed to do. They made copies for me and helped me fill out the application. I am forever grateful for their knowledge and patience. |
| 49 | Tamra | Rouillier | Woonsocket | 02895 | |
| 50 | Sarah | Glowa | Warwick | 02888 | |
| 51 | Asiyah | Flynn-Hakim | Cranston | 02920 | |
| 52 | Emma | Brizuela | Narragansett | 02882 | Help me out throughout a homemaker program |
| 53 | Samantha | Watier | North Smithfield | 02896 | I was improperly billed \$5000 by my health insurance. That's 4 times my monthly income. Medicare sent me to talk to Blue Cross. Blue Cross sent me to talk to Medicare. RIPIN discovered I was part of the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary program (I didn't even know what that was) and was not to be billed at all. The RIPIN employee assigned to my case walked me through every single step of escalating the billing issue through the correct channels with my insurance providers, including literally making phone calls with me. RIPIN saved me \$5K and helped me to better understand a convoluted insurance landscape. |
| 54 | Tiferet | Rose | Providence | 02906 | I've gotten a lot of support from RIPIN throughout the years, from navigating complicated health insurance applications, to respite applications, to making recommendations for programming or helping me advocate for a 1:1 for my daughter in her classroom. Often times they are the only ones I can turn to for this kind of support. Thank you for supporting this wonderful organization! |

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|----|------------|-------------|---------------|-------|---|
| 55 | Yasmin | Alba | Providence | 02908 | |
| 56 | Bernadette | Tavares | Providence | 02909 | I have benefit from direct support and resources for my own children through Peer Support Case Managers. As a practitioner, I am constantly referring families to RIPIN for support in navigating challenges for their children. The support offered by RIPIN is extremely valuable. |
| 57 | Jane | Stone-Tatro | Burrillville | 02830 | RIPIN has been helpful over the last 21 years with resources for my son, who has CP. |
| 58 | Tamara | Reese | Warwick | 02888 | I've used RIPIN several times to help my family navigate IEP meetings and help me advocate for my rights in healthcare situations. Having other people believe in me, support me and validate the struggles or help tell you that what is happening is not acceptable, means the world. I love RIPIN and all who work there. This service is invaluable for families with special needs. |
| 59 | Laura | Levreault | Portsmouth | 02871 | I can't thank Liz Killian and the RIPIN team enough for what they do for our families. My daughter's benefits changed and I didn't have a clue on how to help her. Liz was able to verify eligibility, navigate us through the services and programs associated with my daughter and provide additional resources in the area to further assist her needs. I was overwhelmed through most of the call, but Liz cared enough to walk us through it and show us the light at the end of the tunnel. |
| 60 | Bethany | Hogan | Warwick | 02889 | |
| 61 | Jennifer | Brouillard | Lincoln | 02865 | |
| 62 | Dominique | Tourtellot | Coventry | 02816 | I have been helped by RIPIN twice, both related to issues with getting my life-saving medication approved by insurance after the insurance had denied my doctor's prior authorization requests for months. The insurance I was on didn't care that I had been on this drug for almost a decade (through a different insurance), they still denied my prior authorization for months, denied all appeals for months, and blatantly ignored a decade worth of medical evidence of the drug's medical necessity to me. I had gone almost half of a year without my medication and I was headed down the path that would have eventually lead to my death had RIPIN not stepped in and helped me with my final insurance appeal. RIPIN worker Will Potter stayed on the phone with me for 2-3 hours that day arguing with the insurance company in favor of me receiving the medication. The result of Will's efforts that day lead to my medication being approved and me still being here to write this story today. Thank you RIPIN and thank you Will Potter! |
| 63 | Sharon | Moitoso | Cranston | 02920 | When my son was diagnosed with Autism 19 years ago, I was having difficulty navigating the transition from early intervention to the school system. A RIPIN representative came with me to the meeting to help me amplify my voice so I could advocate for my son and his needs. |
| 64 | Rosa | Zamudio | Central Falls | 02863 | Mucho apoyo |
| 65 | David | Brouillard | Lincoln | 02865 | RIPIN has supported my family in so many ways over the years. They are a lifeline for the entire RI community and a true resource for those in need. |
| 66 | Russell | Ricci | Providence | 02906 | |
| 67 | Kerri | Jurkovitz | Cranston | 02920 | I was struggling to find services for my son who was recently diagnosed with Autism and RIPIN was able to help me connect with services for him. |
| 68 | Tanya | Tanksley | Pawtucket | 02861 | |
| 69 | Lynn | Domenici | Barrington | 02806 | Over the years, I have utilized many of RIPIN's family training opportunities through, webinars, conferences and other in-person events that provided resources, information, and connections. Navigating life with a child with disabilities is not easy and does not come with a roadmap. Having the resources of professionals and peer support through RIPIN has been invaluable on my journey with my daughter who has Down syndrome. RIPIN has armed me with knowledge and tools to successfully navigate special education for my daughter and now provides me with ongoing learning and connections to other families in the exciting world of adult services through BHDDH. |
| 70 | Laura | McGreevy | Providence | 02908 | |
| 71 | Shaorn | Santos | Barrington | 02806 | They have guided me with insurance and the education system. |

Responses: Sign on to show your support for RIPIN

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|----|----------|------------------|------------------|--------|---|
| 72 | Stephen | Orpwood | West Warwick | 02893 | The state stopped my daughters medical coverage for no reason. She was without ins. for quite a few months. I tried to get it reinstated, but it's impossible to get anyone on state gov. to look further than the computer screen they are looking at. I contacted RIPIN and they had it back in about 3 days. |
| 73 | Jen | Brown | Providence | 02906 | My daughter is disabled |
| 74 | Kelly | Gilbride | South Kingstown | 02879 | |
| 75 | Ada | Gómez | Providence | 02908 | El apoyo de Ripin es muy importante para las familias. |
| 76 | Emerald | Ortiz | Pawtucket | 02860 | My youngest child is on the autism spectrum and we received early intervention, he attended a group called Little Owls, we were asked to speak on parent panels and invited to trainings and to be part of some autism research. We were supported by a strong team at RIPIN who always provided information and support to us in a timely manner and even attended some of the early IEP meetings where they informed us of our legal rights. I believe my community advocacy as a doula and lactation counselor began as a mom of a special needs child who received the right type of support from the right people at RIPIN. Over the years I've called in for support in different areas around my sons education, health and well being. Our community is stronger thanks to RIPIN. |
| 77 | Alyssa | Oliveira | North Providence | 02904 | |
| 78 | Jennifer | Fantasia | Smithfield | 02828 | When my oldest was entering school they helped us navigate through the IEP and then the 504 pathways. They helped us make sure he got the support he needed to thrive in school. |
| 79 | Arthur | Cote | South Kingstown | 02879 | RIPIN has been an ESSENTIALZ advocate helping me to navigate the at times confusing landscape of state services for my 2 special- needs children |
| 80 | Maya | Gutmann-McKenzie | Providence | 02909 | RIPIN helps fund community perinatal health efforts and families across RI! Their existence is crucial to our communities. |
| 81 | Jenny | Bautista-Ravreby | Pawtucket | 02861 | |
| 82 | MaryKay | Lennon | South Kingstown | 02879 | |
| 83 | Laura | Foeri | Narragansett | 02882 | |
| 84 | Sarah | O'Brien | Barrington | 02806 | Resource building |
| 85 | Taylor | Dyman | Lincoln | 02865 | I previously worked for the company and have seen the impact they have had on families across Rhode Island |
| 86 | Autumn | Johnson | South Kingstown | 02879 | They have allowed me to practice and hone in on my leadership skills as I proudly sit on their board of directors. As a physically indigenous young woman, I've seen and understand how RIPIN's is so impactful and important to the communities I identify with! |
| 87 | Alice | Msumba | Providence | 02896 | RIPIN has provided services and support for residents of RI that also were members enroll in the health plan I used to work for and always provided guidance and support for the CHW on my team. |
| 88 | Moira | Keating | Narragansett | 029874 | Navigating the world with my son is not something I can do alone. RIPIN understood that from the beginning. Ryan was always there when I had a question, when I wasn't sure which direction to go. When the path ahead felt unclear -- and it often did-- RIPIN was my roadmap. Always taking the time to point me in the right direction, explaining not just where I needed to go but how I would get there. RIPIN has never just handed families information. They have walked alongside us. For my family, that made all the difference |
| 89 | Lynn | Domenici | Barrington | 02806 | |
| 90 | Kathi | Masi | West Warwick | 02893 | |
| 91 | David | Brouillard | Lincoln | 02865 | |
| 92 | Laurie | Brown | Barrington | 02806 | Supported me with information related to self directed services. |
| 93 | Nephtali | Navarro | Providence | 02908 | As a former employee at RIPIN, I am eternally grateful for my time there. During the pandemic in 2020, Shamus' advocacy meant more to me than words can express. While my father was in hospice and strict visitation guidelines were in place, Shamus spoke directly with the hospice director and helped make it possible for me to say goodbye to my dad. I will never forget that kindness and compassion. |

Responses: Sign on to show your support for RIPIN

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|-----|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-------|---|
| 94 | Crystal | Cerullo | Smithfield | 02828 | They have helped our family in numerous ways. However, one example would be Amanda from the call center, who tirelessly supported us in navigating a health insurance issue. We had Cigna at the time, my husband's employer's insurance, and they were refusing to pay any bills related to our son's hearing. He had failed all his newborn hearing screenings, and we were unsure if he could hear. However, the insurance did not care and said they don't cover anything related to hearing. She was truly amazing and made us feel heard. She went back and forth with the insurance companies on our behalf, researching and helping us feel prepared when we spoke with them. We can't thank her or RIPIN enough for their support and the great work that they do. |
| 95 | Michelle | Machado | East Providence | 02914 | |
| 96 | Ann | Maddix | Pawtucket | 02860 | |
| 97 | Joanne | Allard | Smithfield | 02917 | Too many ways to count. most importantly advice from a parent advocate navigating the school system many years ago. A health care advisor helped with many health care issues. My daughter Tracy has gained many opportunities through Ripin, enhancing and developing her confidence and self esteem. She participates. and is co chair of Youth advisory council . She also has become involved with Riseac and other agency's because of Ripin. It has definitely helped her in many ways being involved and not forgotten by Ripin as she aged. |
| 98 | Kendra | Morales | Cranston | 02920 | |
| 99 | Marybeth | Vierra | Newport | 02840 | As a teacher it was always helpful to share RIPIN services with the parents of my students. |
| 100 | Jarod | Ferrucci | Coventry | 02816 | |
| 101 | Kerry | Fournier | South Kingstown | 02892 | |
| 102 | Gayle | Tarzwel | South Kingstown | 02879 | As a parent of an Adult child with Down syndrome I have benefited greatly from the programs and advocacy RIPIN has offered through the years. Great organization that deserves extra funding. Many Thanks |
| 103 | Mary | Helldorfer-Cooney | North Kingstown | 02852 | RIPIN provides invaluable support to special needs families across Rhode Island. Their expertise and direction is pivotal and needs to be supported by all means. |
| 104 | Jennifer | Downing | East Greenwich | 02818 | |
| 105 | Paul | Eacuello | Cranston | 02920 | RIPIN assisted two of my family members with their programs, counseling and support. |
| 106 | April | Bosco | North Smithfield | 02896 | |
| 107 | Bernadine | Sadwin | Cranston | 02920 | |
| 108 | Deborah | Masland | Cumberland | 02864 | When my daughter lost her Medicaid due to her being identified incorrectly by the state, RIPIN helped me work through the appeal process and her correct Medicaid eligibility was restored. |
| 109 | Julie | McKay | North Kingstown | 02874 | When I have questions regarding my special-needs daughter, they always have answers for me. They have been very helpful over the last 15 years. |
| 110 | Christine | Ferris | Coventry | 02816 | RIPIN has proven to be an invaluable resource for families across Rhode Island. They offer a wide array of supports that are vital to many people navigating the complications of supporting an individual with a disability and for those who are living independently, a place to find information to help live their best life. |
| 111 | Annette | Joseph | Pawtucket | 02861 | RIPIN supported my family originally when I needed advice with school meetings, especially for IEPs. The many workshops and info sessions and the annual conference have been so helpful, particularly with my child's transition to adult life. RIPIN is so important for parents and caregivers! |
| 112 | Amy | Blustein | Cranston | 02920 | |
| 113 | Mary | Macomber | North Kingstown | 02852 | RIPIN has helped me navigate questions/concerns to ask the school department as I navigated the IEP process. They always offer help guidance on next steps. |
| 114 | Dana | Padula | East Greenwich | 02818 | |
| 115 | Amy | Stone | East Greenwich | 02818 | In advocacy, resources, compassion and support. |
| 116 | Debra | Mitchell | Providence | 02904 | They supported me personally through assistance with my disabilities and management of my pain, as well as offering family support programs. |

Responses: Sign on to show your support for RIPIN

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|-----|-----------|-----------|------------------|-------|--|
| 117 | Lyrissa | Brito | Pawtucket | 02861 | |
| 118 | Demetri | Stewart | Providence | 02906 | |
| 119 | Peter | Lieberman | North Kingstown | 02852 | fall prevention class |
| 120 | Troy | Peck | Richmond | 02892 | RIPIN helped my family navigate the transition from Early Intervention to non-EIP services for my daughter, who was in the midst of her second battle with leukemia. |
| 121 | Jean | Lieberman | North Kingstown | 02852 | fall prevention class |
| 122 | Sam | Salganik | Providence | 02903 | |
| 123 | Nathan | Markley | North Providence | 02904 | |
| 124 | Moira | Hinderer | Providence | 02905 | RIPIN provides valuable information, services, and advocacy for families like mine. |
| 125 | Elizabeth | Graham | North Kingstown | 02852 | As a RIPIN staff member, I see firsthand how RIPIN helps families whose children are in Early Intervention. Connection to resources, support during the transition process to public preschool and peer support are just a few of the things that RIPIN parent consultants do for families on a daily basis. |
| 126 | Michelle | Tougas | Coventry | 02816 | I have not needed supports through RIPIN, however working for AccessPoint RI I have referred parents for guidance especially within the school system. Many parents are unaware of the laws revolving around the the school system providing their child a proper education. |
| 127 | Nicole | Reddy | North Kingstown | 02852 | Always, too many to count. I am an RSC at Heritage Village. When I call with a Resident's issue. They are there to help me and they will work with you to get the help my resident needs. If I couldn't call RIPIN... I would not know who to get the services they have. |
| 128 | Rita | Capotosto | Cranston | 02921 | |
| 129 | Yeisy | Sanchez | Cumberland | 02864 | They helped me with unclear questions from insurance support for iep questions from service dogs and a lot more |
| 130 | Genevieve | Brennan | Westerly | 02891 | RIPIN helped connect our family to local resources we were not familiar with. |
| 131 | Mallory | Pacheco | Tiverton | 02878 | As a single mom to an Autistic child, RIPIN's services and trainings have been crucial in my ability to successfully navigate Early intervention and special education. I have utilized peer support/cedaar, the special education call center, advocacy trainings, and participated in PLTI which further built my skills in advocacy, public speaking, and community and program development. I have been empowered to build a stronger environment and system for child because of RIPIN. |
| 132 | ROBERT | Garon | Cumberland | 02864 | |
| 133 | Nancy | Black | Portsmouth | 02871 | IEP |
| 134 | Olivia | Thomakos | South Kingstown | 02881 | helped me advocate for myself when insurance had improperly billed me |
| 135 | Linda | Markley | North Providence | 02904 | My son, Nathan Markley has autism and when he was younger the helped me with advice on what he should be receiving at school and at home for services. When Nathan was in his program after high school he was placed at RIPN as a intern. They hired him. He has progressed liked I cover dreamed. He travels to other states doing workshops for RIPIN, does IT work for RIPIN, does so much more for them that I don't know what he does. How losing the grant, he went from full time to part time. This has affected not only RIPIN but Nathan as it is hard for to change. From what everyone tells at Ripin he is a vital part of the staff. If he didn't have RIPIN, Nathan would not be where he be today. |
| 136 | Ladymarie | Vega | Providence | 02904 | RIPIN has been a huge support for my family during a difficult time. After my father's health declined, they helped us look into services and supports available through his insurance that we didn't even know existed. As my father's primary caregiver, this support meant so much to me personally. It helped take some of the stress and pressure off my shoulders and reminded me that my family did not have to navigate this alone. |

Responses: Sign on to show your support for RIPIN

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|-----|----------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|--|
| 137 | Siera | Leone | South Kingstown | 02879 | I was scheduled to have surgery in December with a specialist familiar with my disability in Connecticut. Two weeks before the surgery, I received a call from the doctor's office saying my insurance wouldn't pay because it was out of network. If I wanted to continue, I would have to pay over \$10,000, which is money I don't have. I was shocked. The hospital never offered a solution except paying for the surgery. I was feeling lost, but because I work for RIPIN, I knew there was support and a solution. I contacted our call center, and they helped me through each step of the process to have my insurance cover the surgery. There is no one out there except RIPIN willing to take the time to make sure Rhode Islanders are able to get the support they need navigating the confusing healthcare system. |
| 138 | Kathleen | Campopiano | Middletown | 02842 | RIPIN provides help and resources for my family. |
| 139 | Lauren | Robert | North Kingstown | 02852 | They're helping me with my son's IEP. |
| 140 | Michael | Napolitano | Lincoln | 02802 | There have been several occasions when I need answers to complex issues navigating as a parent of a young man with severe autism, and when state employees have no answers RIPIN does. I recently went through getting SSDI for my son through Social Security, switching from SSDI because my son was qualified as a disabled adult child. Nobody at the state level could answer my questions. Liz at RIPIN walked me through the entire process! |
| 141 | Sharon | Johnson | North Kingstown | 02852 | RIPIN has supported me in a professional capacity as I serve our self-directed families. They are passionate, helpful, flexible and motivated to support not only families, but providers. |
| 142 | Alexia | Arriaza | Johnston | 02919 | RIPIN supported me in ensuring that my child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) appropriately reflected his social-emotional needs throughout his elementary and middle school years. Having a RIPIN representative present allowed me to feel more prepared and confident in addressing my concerns. Prior to the meeting, I met with a RIPIN representative to review my questions and discuss my concerns, which helped me better process the situation and feel more equipped to participate effectively. This support also reduced my anxiety by alleviating concerns about what I needed to say during the meeting. I am grateful for RIPIN's support during these times when I felt isolated and in need of advocacy. |
| 143 | Brittany | Pirie | Cranston | 02920 | RIPIN is a place of employment for me, where I am provided an opportunity to help those in the community that need help to advocate for their health and safety and access programs that help them live and thrive in the community. |
| 144 | Susana | arenas | Pawtucket | 02860 | I'm a mental health counselor who has referred many families to receive support from The RIPIN advocates |
| 145 | colbie | Della Grotta-Taylor | Warwick | 02886 | My son is on the autism spectrum and RIPIN has helped tremendously between advocating for the rights of my son in regards to IEP to district placements and additional supports he is eligible for. |
| 146 | Sherry | Papa | Cranston | 02920 | |
| 147 | William | Flynn | North Kingstown | 02852 | RIPIN helped me find a free balance class, which has helped me prevent falls. |
| 148 | Anthony | Weston | Scituate | 02857 | I was having difficulty in negotiating the Health Care System to get my adult children on a Medicare HMO and RIPIN help with Premium payments and getting a health plan. They also helped me with the SNAP application. |
| 149 | Lina | Roman | Providence | 02908 | I am Chw and RIPIN help my patients with many resources |
| 150 | Gina | Marini | East Providence | 02915 | In my role as Social Worker (within Bradley Hospital), I often refer families to RIPIN for case management support (through their CEDAR Center), educational advocacy support, healthcare support, and valuable information about transition planning (preparing for life after high school for youth for developmental disabilities). RIPIN is a critical agency in our community. I support legislation that would provide state funding to RIPIN. |
| 151 | Kevin | McCaskill | Providence | 02909 | |
| 152 | Bethany | Hogan | Warwick | 02889 | Support and resources |
| 153 | Aracelis | Aponte | Woonsocket | 02895 | RIPIN from the first call RIPIN answered with empathy, kindness and close attention to my concern. They helped me write a letter to the school department, helped me advocate for my son and they have always been professional and responsible in calling back when they say they will. This agency is amazing and I appreciate them very much. |
| 154 | Kathleen | Conti | West Warwick | 02893 | RIPIN gave me the information and tools I needed to effectively advocate for my daughter, collaborate with her school, and navigate Section 504. More importantly, my daughter has learned to utilize those same skills and advocate for herself! |

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|-----|-----------|---------------|-----------------|-------|--|
| 155 | Kathleen | Kando | East Providence | 02915 | |
| 156 | Barry | Marshall | East Providence | 02915 | Helped when my son's health insurance (medicaid/medicare) was endangered. They worked to make sure he kept his services and disability. My wife and I could never have worked it out with SSDI and the state. They doggedly communicated with all concerning agencies and kept us in the loop. |
| 157 | Erin | Leyden-Healey | Providence | 02903 | RIPIN has supported programs at my school by helping families connect with resources. |
| 158 | Emily | Garthee | Lincoln | 02865 | My family was supported through Early Intervention Parent Consultants and Special Education Experts, ensuring we were prepared for IEP meetings. As a local advisory committee leader, I was supported through RIPIN Special Education Local Advisory Committee training. |
| 159 | Judanne | Hamidzada | South Kingstown | 02881 | |
| 160 | Kimberly | Beck | West Warwick | 02893 | A woman named Hope contacted BCBS after they only reimbursed my husband a copay. We were in Mexico when he was experiencing chest pain and respiratory discomfort. We went to the ER and he had an ECHO and a chest x-ray. Without Hope's assistance we wouldn't have received anything more than the copay. She discovered it had been coded incorrectly and communicated with us through the whole process. Very Grateful. |
| 161 | Charles | Feldman | Providence | 02903 | |
| 162 | Lara | London | Providence | 02906 | |
| 163 | Mellanie | Pontbriand | Cumberland | 02864 | |
| 164 | Mykahla | Gardiner | North Kingstown | 02852 | Helped clarify insurance issues that would have resulted in a large co-pay. |
| 165 | Gloria | Aird | Pawtucket | 02861 | Chronic pain sessions. It was very helpful. |
| 166 | Lindy | Garvin | Coventry | 02816 | |
| 167 | Stephanie | Manfredo | Warwick | 02886 | I'm grateful for RIPIN's services, as they have helped to foster and support my advocacy and leadership skills, but I am also confident in navigating my own child's supports and services, knowing that I can consult with fellow colleagues who have the expertise at any point in time. |
| 168 | Rachael | Olobri | North Kingstown | 02852 | I am an early intervention provider and RIPIN supports many of our families in accessing resources in RI. They provide parent support and a wealth of knowledge about health insurance, special education services, and other supports available to families. |
| 169 | Yarnell | Joseph | Providence | 02904 | RIPIN has always been my go-to resource for information and support since I was a young parent at 17, when I just needed advice on childcare and felt unsure about who to turn to. especially when I need a better understanding of children's rights in schools, how to get connected to behavioral services, or even just clear guidance on potential next steps when issues arise. There is very little that RIPIN cannot provide—whether it's clear information, advocacy insight, or suggestions. Without their support, my family may not have flourished, and situations could have worsened. The knowledge I've gained through RIPIN has empowered me not only to support my own family but also to share valuable information with my broader family and community. |
| 170 | Anthony | Pellegrino | Providence | 02906 | |
| 171 | Caitlin | Maynard | Coventry | 02816 | Helped with getting my daughter an IEP when the school refused one for her. |
| 172 | Gabriela | Cortes-Lanier | Cranston | 02921 | |
| 173 | Shannon | Carosi | Cranston | 02921 | |
| 174 | Michelle | Duffy | West Warwick | 02893 | |
| 175 | Krista | Cappuccio | East Providence | 02914 | Part of peer support and Kate beckett |
| 176 | Ai | Han | Providence | 02906 | they help me to connect with professional people who have knowledge to help my daughter. they help me to connect withRIPIN community for support. They are very important agency and need state fund it. |
| 177 | Cynthia | Kaplan | Barrington | 02806 | I am a past employee and know first hand how valuable my help was to the hundreds of families that I helped to navigate through systems of care. My help ranged from educational help navigating IEP and 504 meetings to working with DCYF children as well as children transitioning to adulthood and adult services. These are complicated systems for families taking care of a special needs child while working and trying to give them their best life. Without this help many families will lose out on valuable services that help their child so that they can stay employed. RIPIN is CRITICAL to so many Rhode Island families for their survival! |
| 178 | Camellia | Martins | Johnston | 02919 | |

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|-----|--------------------------|------------------|-------|---|
| 179 | Sharon Santos | Barrington | 02806 | They have helped me for the past 12 years |
| 180 | Allison Norato | North Providence | 02904 | <p>RIPIN staff was so encouraging and well educated with the system. They gave me ideas from things that have helped other parents in the past and helped me know about resources and options I had never explored.</p> <p>RIPIN is the reason I asked to read to my son's class this year. I didn't know parents were allowed to do that. They let me bring in a book about autism and stimming that was written and illustrated by an autistic author and illustrator. Someone from RIPIN mentioned she read for her son's class in the past. When I showed interest in wanting to do that, she encouraged me to ask the teacher for permission.</p> <p>RIPIN is the reason I knew it was okay to ask to speak to my son's class during Autism Acceptance month in April. Before speaking with RIPIN I wouldn't have had the confidence to ask. It was a huge success. My son's entire general education class flapped their hands together and stunned on purpose. It's the first time I've ever seen a whole class of mostly neurotypical children stim so openly and in an obvious way. They learned the word for it and the reason for it. We had a discussion afterwards and every student said it was calming and felt good. I was also given permission to play a video that helps kids understand what it feels like to be autistic and over stimulated. So many children said they feel overstimulated sometimes and they were able to describe things that make them feel that way and relate to what a melt down could feel like. I also got permission to pass around less popular fidget toys and give their names like cheweys and monkey noodles. I also got permission from the school to pass out autism acceptance bracelets I ordered and sunglasses donated from The Autism Project. It was a very successful and inclusive educational experience that only happened because RIPIN inspired and encouraged me.</p> <p>A RIPIN member explained to me how important it is to be involved in the school and how that benefits my son's experiences in school. I never would have been a member of SELAC and so involved in the PTO if it wasn't for a RIPIN staff telling me how much all of that involvement helps. Now the PTO has said they will offer sensory friendly times for certain envets. I never would've asked if it want for a RIPIN staff telling me what personally worked for her child when he was in elementary school. RIPIN is an important organization that has a ripple effect of helping kids get what they need and deserve.</p> |
| 181 | Antonio Lopes | Pawtucket | 02860 | I am an employee at RIPIN |
| 182 | Kathleen Kuiper | North Kingstown | 02852 | RIPIN provides guidance from people with lived experience. I used RIPIN when my adult son was being exited from school without a decent transition plan in place. |
| 183 | Jorge Diaz | Providence | 02909 | RIPIN helped me understand and navigate the Health Insurance world. After this, I'm able to assist and help English- and Spanish-speaking consumers and families. Undertesting all state benefits not just helped me, but also explained to all eligible individuals in need of any benefits. |
| 184 | Rayna Robinson | Providence | 02907 | |
| 185 | Victoria Girouard | Lincoln | 02865 | Medicaid waiver, IEP support |
| 186 | Chris Brown | Barrington | 02806 | RIPIN has been an invaluable support and source of support and resource information for Rhode Island Families. I consider them the premier advocacy and support organization in the state for children, parents and families. |
| 187 | Lisa Niebels | Pawtucket | 02861 | |
| 188 | Christine Zanfini Parker | Cranston | 02921 | RIPIN supported our family with helping us obtain parent advocacy help for my son's special education needs. With RIPIN's help, he was able to stay in the least restrictive setting and a setting that was best for him and his needs. Their services were amazing and we are forever grateful. |
| 189 | Gloria Jackson | Providence | 02909 | |
| 190 | Mary A'Vant-Blinkhorn | Warwick | 02889 | I am a Support Specialist, Fogarty. The services that I provide to my client so he can remain home and continue to thrive are so beneficial. What would my client and many challenged individuals do without the services. |
| 191 | Rachel Young | Warwick | 02886 | |
| 192 | Carla Wahnnon | West Warwick | 02893 | |

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|---------------|--------------|------------------|-------|--|
| 193 Sharon | Schubert | Hopkinton | 02804 | <p>My son was born in 1998, the year we moved to RI. RIPIN helped us figure out how to get support for him as well as provide support for ME and the rest of our family! Being founded by parents of children with special needs is a very important part of how/why RIPIN is so essential and effective.</p> <p>I remember writing a letter of recommendation to RIPIN about a friend and mom of a child with special needs. She was wanting to work for RIPIN because she really believed in the organization and had benefited from its support. She has been working for RIPIN for over 15 years!!</p> |
| 194 Robin | Covington | East Providence | 02914 | I work collaboratively with the Older Adult Services Department, helping clients access home care services and assisting in meeting their unmet needs. |
| 195 Aniete | Desousa | Pawtucket | 02860 | with any resources I need |
| 196 Sumere | Barata | Woonsocket | 02895 | You have helped in many ways |
| 197 Stephen | Cavalieri | Bristol | 02809 | <p>I am a former board member and employee of RIPIN. Since I've retired, I have used RIPIN a number of times to help ME navigate the complexities of Medicare and Medicaid. Sometimes I've call RIPIN and attained information for a person(s) that didn't realize the benefits they were not getting that they were in-need of. Always a happy result, even if it's not what I expected, RIPIN employees are so considerate and caring.</p> <p>NOTE: I would truly believe that the quadriplegic boxer from Cranston (Gary Balletto) would be happy to share his story of how RIPIN helped him with his medical expense issues.</p> |
| 198 Sharon | Kochan | East Providence | 02915 | When my son was charged for copays, even though we had Blue Cross and Medicaid, the RIPIN Call Center helped me get the charges reversed. I ended up not having to pay anything. Thank you RIPIN! |
| 199 Claire | Laties-Davis | Cranston | 02905 | |
| 200 vasco | costa | North Providence | 02904 | help with my son issues with medical . |
| 201 Lea | Charpentier | Warwick | 02889 | Getting support from agencies needed to help support my son. lep support. Overall even just listening to me |
| 202 Meghan | Smith | Newport | 02840 | RIPIN helped me navigate the process of getting my 2 autistic sons Katie Beckett health insurance |
| 203 Arlette | Hidalgo | Providence | 02907 | I did my Parent Leadership Training with them and I also love the work they are doing with the community. |
| 204 Naoemi | Raimondi | Charlestown | 02813 | The webinars, staff, educational supports, activities, and programs are invaluable and most appreciated. |
| 205 Paul | White | Woonsocket | 02895 | RIPIN has provided me with several classes on senior health issues |
| 206 Catherine | Auclair | Pawtucket | 02860 | They helped me with applying for a house keeper and medical straighten out |
| 207 Tammy | Silva | Cumberland | 02864 | RIPIN has been such a great resource for our family as my daughter Self Directs her services. We've attended many events over zoom and in person that have benefited myself as a parent and caregiver as well as my daughter. I attended both Self Directed conferences and learned so much. Everyone at RIPIN is so knowledgeable and always willing to help. They are an incredible resource to families navigating the system. It can definitely be overwhelming. They also share so many ways to connect with others in the community. Their website is filled with so much information. |
| 208 Stephanie | Campbell | Portsmouth | 02871 | You help my autistic grandson |
| 209 Karen | Marshall | Portsmouth | 02871 | |
| 210 Cheryl | Monroe | Providence | 02904 | Finding medical that's right for me |
| 211 Lori | Barden | Pawtucket | 02860 | RIPIN gave me the courage and resources to advocate for my child, to understand his 504 Plan and know that he needed more. Working together with the school he eventually was put on an IEP, and then after achieving the goals we are back to a 504 plan. RIPIN also taught us to see this not as second place but as the best fit for my child- and through all of this, the techniques I was taught to be the better advocate have been passed along to my son. He is getting ready for senior year, actively looking at colleges, and being HIS best advocate! |
| 212 Kelsey | Martin | East Providence | 02915 | |
| 213 Jennifer | Franchetti | Warwick | 02888 | |

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|-----|----------|--------------|------------------|-------|---|
| 214 | Maura | Bettez | Coventry | 02816 | |
| 215 | Helen | Adediran | Providence | 02905 | Advocacy and support |
| 216 | Sandy | Markley | Pawtucket | 02861 | He Helped my nephew |
| 217 | Tammy | Beauparlant | Woonsocket | 02895 | My daughter has special needs and they are a wealth of information and support |
| 218 | Jane | Bouchard | Pawtucket | 02771 | |
| 219 | Arlene | Baptiste | Woonsocket | 02895 | I am a professional helping Rhode Islanders and have personally experienced the satisfaction and gratitude that consumers show to me as I support individuals and families in navigating very complex and often overwhelming and frustrating systems that if not for RIPIN's support would have made consumers fall through the cracks. I have supported a lot of consumers in obtaining and maintaining Medicare with the support of the MPP program. I have helped parents with education concerns about their school age children. I have assisted in Medicaid applications, SNAP applications and appeals. I have helped individuals receive life saving services in my work at RIPIN. I have helped save consumers money they would otherwise incorrectly be expected to pay when they are on fixed incomes from SSI or SSDI. |
| 220 | Lenus | Baptiste | Woonsocket | 02895 | I am the husband of a RIPIN staff member and she has helped me by helping me understand my health insurance and associated costs. I never understood the different costs associated with claims such as deductibles, copayments or coinsurances. Because of her work I feel more comfortable with my health insurance. |
| 221 | David | Ricci | North Providence | 02904 | My nephew is autistic . He actually was able to graduate college. He has a full time job |
| 222 | Susan | Votolato | Smithfield | 02917 | |
| 223 | Millie | Obrien | North Providence | 02904 | |
| 224 | Jane | Rocha-DeMelo | East Providence | 02914 | *My mother-in-law fractured her neck, and her insurance was refusing to pay for her to stay at the rehab until her follow-up appointment with her neurologist. She lived in East Providence. I called her senator's office, and they told me RIPIN had a department of Healthy Aging. They assisted me in appealing the insurance decision. She was still denied and had to pay out of pocket, but RIPIN was extremely helpful. |
| 225 | Savannah | Aguilar | Providence | 02909 | |
| 226 | Alison | Macleod | West Warwick | 02893 | Contacted RIPIN for assistance for my elderly mother with Alzheimer's and what resources could be obtained. The vital resources they provided saved our family. Was able to get the assistance to keep my mother in her home and continue to be a part of her community. Since joining the programs Claire has thrived, remaining engaged, socially active and vibrant within her community. We have seen firsthand the stability and positive outcome and delicate equilibrium that has enabled Claire to remain at home rather than transitioning to long-term care. It is a testament to the power of collaboration between RIPIN and community programs in maintaining dignity and quality of life for individuals living with disabilities. This outcome is due in large part from the assistance of RIPIN. Was so inspired by RIPIN and their mission looked for opportunities to be a part of their team. To pay it forward and help others in need as RIPIN once did for my family. |
| 227 | Thamara | Davis | Pawtucket | 02860 | I have used the services of RIPIN several times. Not only have I and my daughter directly benefited from the webinars and consultation services available; I have also referred many families to them for support in discussions with schools and formulation of IEPs. I cannot say enough about the very valuable services that RIPIN provides to families across Rhode Island. |
| 228 | Jane | Manchester | Tiverton | 02878 | Valuable information! |
| 229 | Sharien | Brockmon | Cranston | 02920 | |
| 230 | Amy | O'BRIEN | Narragansett | 02882 | RIPIN has provided several trainings that gave me the tools to advocate for services at my son's school. They've empowered me to take a leadership role in our NSEAC and re-establish our organization in Narragansett. They've also served as a support network and provided strategies to promote inclusion in our district. Their existence is critical to our disability community. |
| 231 | Jessica | Hazard | North Providence | 02904 | |
| 232 | Laurie | Campfield | North Kingstown | 02874 | |

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|-----|---------|------------|------------|-------|---|
| 233 | Silvia | Orellana | Pawtucket | 02860 | <p>Ripen have been an invaluable source of support throughout the journey with my son, who was born with special needs 20 yrs ago. Their guidance and assistance helped me advocate for him and access the resources and services he needed over the years. I sincerely believe that without their support, navigating this process would have been extremely difficult for our family.</p> <p>I respectfully encourage you to continue supporting this organization and the important work they do for families like ours.</p> <p>sincerely, Orellana Family</p> |
| 234 | Carlos | Orellana | Pawtucket | 02860 | Ellos an sido una pieza clave de guía para guiarnos en el proceso de nuestro hijo el cual es especial. |
| 235 | Maria | Jacobo | Pawtucket | 02860 | Ripen es una organización que trae muchisimo alivio a familias con necesidades especiales como mi nieto, pido respetozamente le continuen apoyando. |
| 236 | Kate | DeCarvalho | Barrington | 02806 | |
| 237 | Patrice | Whiting | Johnston | 02919 | Tried to help with Medicaid/Medicare |