

Rhode Island Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Officers

President

Scott Rivkees, MD, FAAP
Phone: 203/641-2545
scott_rivkees@brown.edu

Vice President

Michael Koster, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-8360
michael_koster@brown.edu

Secretary

Shuba Kamath, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-8531
shuba_kamath@brown.edu

Treasurer

Sara Ford, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/444-4612
SFord@lifespan.org

Immediate Past President

Peter Pogacar, MD, FAAP
Phone: 401/884-8900
prpogacar@gmail.com

Chapter Executive Director

Jennifer L. Mann, MPH
Phone: 401/743-1507
jmann.aapri@gmail.com

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Mailing Address:

American Academy of Pediatrics
Rhode Island Chapter
PO Box 20365
Cranston, RI 02920

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RIAAP Testimony in Support of SB2562

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chairwoman Murray and members of the committee,

I'm writing to request your urgent support of SB2562, 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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