

**From:** [Ariana Raufi](#)  
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Hi Robin,

Written testimony to support S-2562  
Ariana Raufi M.D.  
East Bay Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine

Hello,

I am writing today in support of S-2562 to fund the PediPRN program and to have both the MomsPRN and PediPRN program put into state law.

I have been a pediatrician in Rhode Island for almost 8 years. I came here fresh out of training excited to take care of kids in this state. Very quickly, however, I became disheartened. The mental health of children and teens here, and in this country, is at an all time low. We as pediatricians are fighting every day to try to help these kids, but up until 2 years ago, our resources had been extremely limited. Waitlists for therapists were unacceptable and out of pocket costs for pediatric psychiatrists were outrageous. In 2022, everything changed. PediPRN reached out to my pediatric practice to organize weekly meetings to discuss patients' needs. Now we could talk about medication management, community resources, diagnostic trouble shooting, safety evaluations directly with a pediatric psychiatrist and mental health specialist. Dr. Manning (and her colleagues) have transformed my career in so many ways, and I am so grateful for their guidance over the past few years. The expertise that they have taught me has allowed me to help hundreds of families. PediPRN has been invaluable to us as a practice, and I can't emphasize enough how much I support this program.

Rhode Island has a lot to work on with regards to medicine and especially pediatrics. We have too few pediatricians. Waitlists are too long. Reimbursement is horrendous. But we have one thing: we have PediPRN... and it is a lifesaver.

Thank you,  
Ariana Raufi M.D.

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Ariana Raufi M.D.  
Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Class of 2014  
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