

**Template for Written Testimony**  
**Rhode Island General Assembly**

*Notes: Use agency logo and digital letterhead if you have it. Save your testimony as a PDF and submit via email by the deadline for written testimony!*

**To:** Name of Committee Holding Hearing (e.g., House Finance Committee)

**From:** Marcolino Ferretti East Bay Pediatrics.

**Date:** 3/2026

**Re:** Rhode Island's Psychiatry Resource Network programs **Support** Senate Bill S-2562

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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for, which would provide sustainable funding for Rhode Island's Psychiatry Resource Network programs, including MomsPRN and PediPRN.

We have been using PediPRN for many years. It has been a very important part of our ability to provide good psychiatric care to our kids.

There is a shortage of Pediatric psychiatrist in our state with limited ability to get kids seen in a timely manner.

This program often gets us same or next day support of our patients with severe mental health issues. Saving many ER visits for mental health.

Access to timely mental health care remains one of the most pressing challenges facing Rhode Island families. Primary care providers, pediatricians, and obstetric clinicians are often the first point of contact for individuals experiencing mental health concerns, yet many lack immediate access to psychiatric consultation. Programs like MomsPRN and PediPRN fill this critical gap by offering real-time support, helping providers deliver informed, effective care when it is needed most.

S-2562 represents a practical and forward-thinking solution. By requiring insurer participation in funding these programs, the bill ensures long-term sustainability without placing the burden solely on state resources. This investment will strengthen early intervention efforts, reduce delays in care, and improve outcomes for children and mothers across the state.

The benefits of these programs are far-reaching. Early access to mental health expertise can prevent conditions from worsening, reduce emergency interventions, and support healthier families and communities. In particular, supporting maternal mental health and pediatric behavioral health has lasting positive effects on child development and family stability.

Sincerely,

Marcolino Ferretti, MD

