

Testimony in Support of *SB-2562*
The Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
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The Economic Progress Institute supports Senator DiMario's *SB-2562*, which would sustain the MomsPRN and PediPRN consultation programs. These programs help perinatal and pediatric care providers effectively manage maternal and pediatric mental health challenges through telehealth consultations and referrals.

Rhode Island has two statewide Psychiatry Resource Network (PRN) teleconsultation programs: RI MomsPRN and PediPRN. These programs support Rhode Island healthcare professionals by offering same-day specialized clinical consultations and resource/referral services related to mental health.¹ In Rhode Island, one in four women in Rhode Island report experiencing depression during or after pregnancy. Additionally, one in three children, ranging from ages 3 –17, have a diagnosable mental health condition. Postpartum depression has been proven to be deadly for new parents, as well as for their young children and families, if left untreated. Rhode Island, Washington, and Newport Counties have been highlighted as Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSAs).² These programs have supported almost 6,000 patients and over 1,000 healthcare professionals as of September 2025.³ The cost of untreated maternal mental health issues, such as emergency department visits, delayed treatment, or other societal impacts, is estimated to be around \$9.7 million annually in Rhode Island.⁴

Without state funding to continue the program, PediPRN would shut down this September, creating a gap in support for pediatric health care providers and reducing access to care for struggling families and children. PediPRN advances health equity for vulnerable children and aids in addressing Rhode Island's shortage of mental healthcare providers.

MomsPRN and PediPRN are investments that prevent further harm and additional costs to the state, while helping Rhode Islanders by increasing access to mental health care during a shortage of care providers and long waiting lists. We urge passage.

¹ [Rhode Island Psychiatry Resource Network \(PRN\), Rhode Island Department of Health, 2025](#)

² [Health Professional Shortage Areas: Mental Health in Rhode Island, 2026, Rural Health Information Hub](#)

³ [Sustain RI's Psychiatry Resource Network \(PRN\) for Moms, Babies, and Children, 2026, Right from the Start Factsheet](#)

⁴ [Rhode Island MomsPRN Impact Report, 2025](#)