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April 2, 2026

The Honorable Melissa A. Murray  
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
Rhode Island State House, 82 Smith Street, Providence RI 02903

Re: **Support for Senate Bill 2562 – An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act**

Dear Chair Murray and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Protect Our Healthcare Coalition is a group of leading Rhode Island nonprofit organizations and consumer groups with a shared mission to protect, improve, and expand equitable access to quality, person-centered, affordable health care for all.

On behalf of the Coalition, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2562, which would establish a permanent funding mechanism for both the MomsPRN and PediPRN programs through a reasonable health plan assessment.

The need for pregnancy, postpartum, and pediatric access to mental health support is urgent and growing. Rhode Island's primary care practitioners have become the frontline for initial mental health care, and they often do not always have extensive training in mental healthcare or knowledge in navigating the complex and overtaxed system to connect patients to care. Rhode Island's MomsPRN and PediPRN programs help address this gap: the programs have supported 1,386 healthcare professionals at 486 practices across the state to serve 5,858 perinatal and pediatric patients (as of September 2025).

**The exceptional and effective PediPRN and MomsPRN network faces a funding dilemma.** Federal grant funding for MomsPRN has ended, and federal grant funding for PediPRN is scheduled to end in September, 2026. The Governor's proposed budget includes funding for MomsPRN, but not for PediPRN. If no funding is allocated, the PediPRN program will close.

**The MomsPRN and PediPRN networks mean that help is just a phone call away for pediatricians and primary care doctors.** These critical networks have been proven effective and are keeping kids and moms out of upstream, more costly care.

We encourage you to support these bills, and thank you for your consideration.

Alexandra Steinberg  
Coordinator, Protect Our Healthcare Coalition

***Protect Our Healthcare Coalition partners include:*** Economic Progress Institute, RIPIN, Mental Health Association RI, RI Health Center Association, Latino Policy Institute, United Way of Rhode Island, Senior Agenda Coalition RI, RI Medical Society, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, SEIU Rhode Island Council, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, Blood Cancer United, RI Coalition for the Homeless, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Mental Health Recovery Coalition, RI Community Food Bank, RI Psychological Association, Substance Use & Mental Health Leadership Council, Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families, HousingWorks RI, Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP), National Association of Social Workers RI Chapter, The Womxn Project, Advocates for Better Care

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