

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Noah Benedict, and I serve as the CEO and President of the Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation. I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill S-2562, which would provide sustainable funding for Rhode Island's Psychiatry Resource Network programs, including MomsPRN and PediPRN.

From the perspective of primary care, access to timely mental health support remains one of the most urgent challenges facing our patients and providers. Primary care clinicians, pediatricians, and obstetric providers are often the first point of contact for individuals experiencing mental health concerns. However, too often they lack immediate access to psychiatric consultation when making critical care decisions. Programs like MomsPRN and PediPRN are essential tools that bridge this gap by offering real-time clinical support, enabling providers to deliver informed, high-quality care at the moment it is needed.

S-2562 represents a practical and forward-looking approach to sustaining these vital services. By requiring insurer participation in funding, the bill establishes a stable, long-term financing structure that does not rely solely on limited state resources. This is a smart investment in our healthcare system, one that strengthens early intervention, reduces delays in care, and supports better outcomes for Rhode Island's children and families.

The impact of these programs is significant. Early access to psychiatric expertise can prevent conditions from escalating, reduce the need for emergency interventions, and promote healthier families and communities. In particular, supporting maternal mental health and pediatric behavioral health has profound and lasting benefits for child development and family stability.

On behalf of Rhode Island's primary care community, I strongly urge your support for S-2562.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Noah Benedict

President & CEO

Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation