

To: Senate Health and Human Services Committee

From: Rebecca Silver, PhD

Date: 4/2/26

Re: Support for S-2562

My name is Rebecca Silver. I am a resident of Providence and a licensed psychologist specializing in infant and early childhood mental health. Given my many roles within the Rhode Island infant and early childhood service delivery system (e.g., therapist, mental health consultant, professional development provider, researcher, program director), I know that we do not have enough specialized mental health providers to meet current needs in Rhode Island. I therefore endorse the Right from the Start Campaign's **support of S-2562 to fund the PediPRN program and to put both the MomsPRN and PediPRN program in state law.**

This bill (S-2562) would ensure that both the MomsPRN program and PediPRN program are funded since only MomsPRN is currently in the state budget. The Pediatric Psychiatry Resource Network (PediPRN) program is a critical phone consultation program that helps pediatricians and other pediatric health care providers meet children's mental health needs, so kids don't have to wait to see specialists. All but one state in the U.S. has a pediatric psychiatry access program like this. If funds are not allocated to support the Rhode Island PediPRN program, it will close in September creating challenges for families, children, and pediatric health care providers statewide. We should be increasing, not decreasing, access for mental health support - now more than ever – and this bill is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for reviewing my testimony and my recommendation to **support S-2562 to fund the PediPRN program and put both MomsPRN and PediPRN into state law.**

Sincerely,

Rebecca Silver, PhD