



Washington County Coalition for Children

To: Senator Melissa Murray, Chair, Senate Health & Human Services Committee & Members

Date: April 2, 2026

RE: **S2562 Concerning PediPRN & MomsPRN**

The Washington County Coalition for Children **strongly supports S2562** that will sustain two important psychiatric consultation lifelines for pediatric and obstetric providers - PediPRN & MomsPRN - which are essential in rural and mental health shortage areas of the state.

Our Coalition brings together community-based providers, schools, healthcare organizations, & family-serving agencies across Washington County. Recognized as a mental health shortage area, families in Washington County feel the devastating toll of unmet mental health needs. Every day, we see firsthand the increasing behavioral health needs of children & youth—and the gaps families face when a crisis occurs. New mothers experiencing postpartum depression also often don't know where to turn for help. PediPRN and MomsPRN are effective psychiatric consultation services that fill these gaps.

PediPRN is a lifeline for overburdened pediatric primary care providers on the frontlines of our state's youth behavioral health crisis. This program has been instrumental in reducing avoidable emergency department visits and more importantly, ensuring timely access to psychiatric expertise. Without PediPRN, families will be once again be left waiting for help that never comes, and pediatric primary care providers will be forced to navigate complex mental health challenges without the tools or support they need. Washington County Pediatric providers rely on PediPRN to help children in crisis. Similarly, Obstetric providers rely on Moms PRN to support new mothers experiencing mental health challenges. Research confirms the importance of those early experiences for infants bonding with their parents. Untreated mental health conditions can seriously impact the mental health of their young children with lifelong consequences. Our state needs these two vital mental health supports for health providers in our state.

All but 1 state in the United States have similar psychiatric consultation services in place. With 1 in 5 children with a significant mental health condition, do we really want to move that far backwards?

The Washington County Coalition for Children **strongly urges your support for S2562**. This bill represents a critical investment in the state's behavioral health crisis system, and sustains vital services our front-line health providers rely upon. An investment in these programs is an investment in improvements in child well-being, family stability, and the strength of our communities.

Sincerely,

Robert Hicks
Volunteer Lobbyist