

April 2, 2026

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

RE: In Support of S2562 — An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – The Healthcare Services Funding Plan Act

Dear Chairwoman Murray and Members of the Senate Health & Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families (RICCF), a network of 44 organizations dedicated to advancing child well-being and family stability, we write in support of S2562, which would provide sustainable funding for Rhode Island’s Psychiatry Resource Network (PRN) programs, including MomsPRN and PediPRN, through the Healthcare Services Funding Plan.

Rhode Island continues to face significant challenges in meeting the behavioral health needs of children and families. As highlighted in our 2024 report, [*Children in Crisis Can’t Wait: The Case for System Transformation*](#), demand for services remains high:

- 18% of Medicaid-enrolled toddlers ages 2-3 have a behavioral health claim
- Youth ages 6-18 account for more than 44,000 behavioral health claims

At the same time, families continue to experience delays in accessing care, placing increased strain on emergency departments, hospitals, and higher-cost interventions. Without strong upstream supports, children are more likely to experience crises that result in hospitalization or placement in restrictive and often out-of-state settings.

MomsPRN and PediPRN are critical components of Rhode Island’s behavioral health infrastructure. These programs:

- Provide **same-day psychiatric consultation** to pediatric and prenatal providers
- Support **early identification and intervention**, reducing the need for higher levels of care
- Connect providers and families to **appropriate referrals and resources**
- Strengthen the **capacity of frontline providers** through training and workforce development

By integrating behavioral health expertise into primary care and prenatal settings, PRN programs help ensure that children and families receive timely, appropriate care often before conditions escalate.

RICCF member organizations, including community health centers and family service providers, have directly benefited from these programs, improving access to mental health care for children and perinatal patients across the state.

S2562 builds on prior legislative efforts by establishing a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism for PRN programs through the Healthcare Services Funding Plan. This approach ensures that Rhode Island can continue to invest in prevention, reduce long-term costs, and improve outcomes for children and families.

Sustaining and strengthening these programs is particularly important as Rhode Island continues broader system transformation efforts, including implementation of the children's behavioral health consent decree. Investments in PRN help ensure that providers across the state are equipped to meet growing demand and support families before crises occur.

The Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families strongly urges your support for S2562. Ensuring stable funding for MomsPRN and PediPRN is a strategic, evidence-based investment in the health and well-being of Rhode Island's children and families.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to strengthening our state's behavioral health system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tanja Kubas-Meyer".

Tanja Kubas-Meyer
Executive Director