

April 11, 2024

Kerry Staniunas  
60 Faith St,  
East Providence, RI 02914

Dear RI Assembly of Legislatures,

Thank you to Senator Valverde and Representative Giraldo for supporting H 7899 and S2360 to make the First Connections Medicaid rate increase from last year permanent. Increasing the Medicaid rate for First Connections will help with maintaining the current system of nurses visiting new parents and their infant following birth to check on their weight and development. After a few visits, nurses are able to refer to longer term family visiting including, Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, and Healthy Families America. All of these programs are evidence-based and must meet the 22 benchmarks set by Department of Health. As a constituent and voter that works in the field of mental health, child welfare, and early childhood education, I urge you to pass this bill to ensure supportive services to the families of vulnerable infants across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kerry Staniunas