



**BROWN**  
School of Public Health

**ALISON Z. WEBER, MPH, PhD CANDIDATE**

Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences

House Committee on Education  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly

February 26, 2024  
Testimony in support of *H-7438*

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am a PhD student at the Brown School of Public Health, and I serve as the President of the Board of Directors of Eastside Early Learning Center in Providence, RI. I am also a resident of Pawtucket, RI, and the mother of two young daughters, Eleanor (5 years old) and Audrey (2 years old). This testimony reflects my own thoughts. I write to express my strong support for House Bill 7438, entitled “AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION – CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES”, which allocates a one-time investment of \$250,000 to establish a task force to develop recommendations to improve access to early intervention and early childhood special education services.

The state of Rhode Island has fallen behind our neighbors in providing essential early intervention services for our families. Establishing a taskforce will ensure we have a solid plan to meet the need of children across Rhode Island.

I urge you to vote in favor of House Bill 7438. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alison Z. Weber, MPH

PhD Candidate  
Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Brown University School of Public Health

President, Board of Directors  
Eastside Early Learning Center