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February 28, 2024

RE: H7438 - RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Chairman McNamara and Members of the Education Committee,

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council supports efforts to ensure students with disabilities have the same access to education as all students. Special education teachers and directors have reported a stunning drop in readiness of children in the transition from early intervention into the classroom. In order to ensure children receive the early intervention and special education services they require action is necessary.

House bill H7438 will create a task force, develop strategies, and make recommendations to improve the deliverance of interventions and outreach to the community about those interventions. This task force is a first step in correcting a gap in the identification and deliverance of necessary interventions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at any time keyinnerney@riddc.org or 401 737 1238

Kevin Nerney

Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council