

Association of RI Administrators of Special Education: In support of H 5462

Sent via email to houseeducation@rilegislature.gov

April 23, 2025

Rep. Joseph McNamara, Chairman
House Education Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
73 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman McNamara,

I write as legal counsel for the Association of Rhode Island Administrators of Special Education ("ARIASE") to support H 5462 and advocate for a more aggressive timeline for its proposed implementation. ARIASE is the lone statewide association of special education administrators in Rhode Island, and its members are passionately committed to serving students with disabilities and working collaboratively with their families to enhance their educational opportunities and outcomes.

The members of ARIASE are grateful to Representative Tanzi and her co-sponsors for their recognition of the importance of early identification and the delivery of high-quality early childhood IDEA services to children with developmental challenges, developmental delays, and disabilities. ARIASE wholeheartedly endorses the expansion of the early intervention program under the Executive Office of Health and Human Services ("EOHHS"). Our only question is why families will have to wait two and a half years to benefit from this bill. ARIASE understands that expanding early intervention services under 20 U.S.C. § 1435(c) will require the state to work with the Rhode Island Department of Education to incorporate the requisite expansion plans into its annual application to the US Office of Special Education Programs for approval, but if it is feasible ARIASE favors a more expedited implementation schedule.

ARIASE consists of our state's foremost experts in all aspects of educating students with disabilities, and its leaders are eager to share their collective wisdom and insights with H 5462's sponsors should there be any interest in exploring an accelerated implementation timeline. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Timothy J. Groves, Esq.