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February 28, 2024

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chair
Rhode Island House Committee on Finance
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: Support of H 7225 Article 9 Relating To Health And Human Services

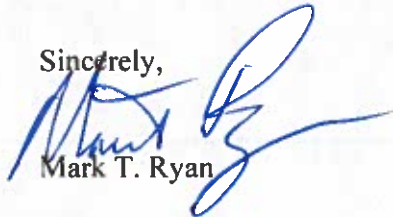
Dear Chair Abney:

On behalf of Meeting Street, I am writing in support of Article 9 of House Bill 7225, which would increase funding for Early Intervention at one hundred (100) percent of the increase recommended in the Social and Human Service Programs Review Final Report produced by the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner. Early Intervention funding is critical for Rhode Island's children. Timing is imperative in the delivery of Early Intervention services and funding plays a major part in being able to timely deliver services and properly staff programs. Additionally, investment in Early Intervention programs saves the State of Rhode Island money in the long-term by reducing the need for additional support services once children reach school age.

Although data suggests that the currently proposed increase in this Budget Article is not sufficient to fully eliminate the waiting lists, delays, and service disruptions that impact Early Intervention services due to inadequate funding and staffing, this is a step in the correct direction. I urge the Committee to pass Article 9 of House Bill 7225 as it relates to Early Intervention funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark T. Ryan