

Chair Abney House Finance Committee Rhode Island State House

Re: Support of the Family Home Visiting Bill H-6073

Dear Chair Abney and members of the Committee,

My Name is Isabel Malloy and I work in the Healthy Families America Program at Family Service of Rhode Island.

I write in strong support of Rep Giraldo's Home Visiting bill H6073 and encourage you to ensure that Rhode Island adequately funds the state's home visiting programs. As required in H6073, Rhode Island must meet the state funding matching requirements for the federal Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds to draw down federal funds so that high-quality programs are offered to all families who could benefit.

In FY24, Rhode Island was one of only 3 states that did not spend the required amount to draw down the full amount. For FFY26, Rhode Island should make the \$355,374 investment in order to receive \$1.6 million to fund these vital programs.

I know firsthand how important The Healthy Families America Program (HFA) is to family's in Rhode Island. I currently work at Family Service of Rhode Island Family Service a statewide nonprofit, in the HFA program providing in home services to at risk mothers and infants. HFA teaches parents a curriculum of Growing Great Kids, empowering caretakers to learn about and successfully interact with their children enabling them to reach developmental milestones. HFA is rooted in an evidence-based model; it is approach is strength-based, culturally respectful, and family-centered prenatally until a child turns 5 years old making sure unmet needs are addressed.

Quote from HFA client

"HFA, my family visitor Isabel help me so much I appreciate so much what she does for me and my son. She is the best family visitor and someone whom I can talk to about my parenting and challenges in my life.. She really supports me well and I really love being in the HFA program."

Thank you

Isabel Malloy, Healthy Families Family Visitor