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James R. Hoyt, Jr.  
Chairman

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Executive Director

April 22, 2025

"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,

Blackstone Valley Community Action Program (BVCAP) writes in strong support of Rep Giraldo's Home Visiting bill H6073 and encourages you to ensure that Rhode Island adequately funds the state's home visiting programs.

BVCAP serves families in Pawtucket, Central Falls, Providence, Cumberland, North Providence and more neighboring cities/towns. Home visiting programs like Healthy Families America (HFA) are vital to the families in our communities. Home visiting programs continue to have a positive impact on maternal and child health outcomes.

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 FY25, Rhode Island was one of only three 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.** This relatively small investment is not included in the Governor's proposed FY26 budget and we do not think RIDOH currently has the funds to meet the match. We urge you pass H6073 to add the \$355,0374 into the RIDOH budget to ensure we can meet the federal match.

We also support the increased reporting requirements included in H6073 so that the general assembly can help ensure the ongoing sustainability of these important programs.

BVCAP has struggled with the fee-for-service model since it went into effect in October 2024. This approach has been challenging because we are unable to bill if a home visit does not take place, it does not cover a Supervisor or Program Manager's salary, and if a family cancels a visit for whatever reason we cannot bill. Rhode Island should consider alternative models that other states have used so that home visiting will be able to continue and even grow to help all the families who could benefit.

Thank you

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