

To: House Finance Committee

From: Kate Grannemann, MPA, ECMH-E®, Early Childhood Consultant

Date: March 24, 2026

Re: Opposition to RIDOH Budget - Governor's Budget Bill, H-7127

My name is Kate Grannemann and I am an Early Childhood Consultant with more than a decade of experience providing technical assistance, training, and support to state agencies and educators across the country. I have a background in public policy, experience working in state government, and have volunteered thousands of hours of my time with children and families. I am endorsed as an Early Childhood Mental Health Policy Mentor.

I am submitting this testimony to document my opposition to the the RIDOH budget, because it does not include \$535,000 in state general funds needed to draw down \$1.6 million in new federal funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. From a budgetary standpoint, Rhode Island would be forfeiting significant federal funds by not making the state match. Among other benefits to the well-being of families, studies have shown a strong return on investment in home visiting programs due to the reduction in the need for future public services from healthcare to child welfare to the criminal justice system. This is not a new, untested, program, investing these funds would be the continuation of an already successful investment. The decision to forego these funds would have a real impact on children and families. Home visiting is known to be an evidence-based intervention, and without these funds, the agencies who make it their mission to support young children and their families will struggle to pay their staff and offer adequate programs, leaving families to needlessly suffer. For these reasons, I oppose the passing of the RIDOH budget without these funds included.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Grannemann, MPA, ECMH-E®