



To: House Finance Committee

From: Dinusha W, Dietrich, MD, Smithfield Pediatrics

Date: March 24th, 2026

Re: SUPPORT for EOHHS Budget

I am a pediatrician working at Smithfield Pediatrics, a small private practice located in Greenville, RI that provides care for children from birth to 18. I have been in practice in RI since 2002.

I support the proposed budget for EOHHS, because it includes funding for the OHIC recommended Medicaid rate increase for Family Home Visiting (First Connections, Healthy Families America, and Parents as Teachers) **AND the OHIC recommended Medicaid rate increase for Early Intervention;** however instead of only funding 50% of the recommended rate increase as currently proposed, I would strongly encourage funding 100% of the recommended rate increase to help strengthen program staffing and restore family access to services for these crucial programs.

Early childhood is a critical period for brain development and establishment of successful and sustainable family bonds. These two programs provide critical support for RI families as they navigate these rewarding and challenging years. The education and support provided by Family Home Visiting greatly reduces the risk of adverse outcomes such as child abuse, neglect or avoidable injury. Early Intervention provides timely identification and support for children with behavioral or developmental challenges. These programs are crucial to the health and wellbeing of our most vulnerable children and ties in directly to later success in school and life.

Again, I support the proposed budget of EOHHS, but strongly encourage 100% percent funding of the proposed OHIC rate increases for Family Home Visting and Early Intervention.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely, Dinusha Dietrich, MD