



May 14, 2026

SEIU 1199NE Position in Support of H-7586 and H-7708 Relating to Maternal Health and Early Intervention Services

Dear Chairman Abney and Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee:

SEIU 1199NE represents approximately 7,500 healthcare workers, home care workers, childcare providers, and social service workers throughout Rhode Island, including workers in hospitals, clinics, community health settings, and programs serving children and families.

H-7586 and H-7708 represent important investments in maternal health, infant health, early intervention services, and long-term health outcomes for Rhode Island families.

Rhode Island continues to face serious challenges related to healthcare access, workforce capacity, and health disparities, particularly for low-income families and communities of color. Strengthening maternal health services and early intervention programs is critical to improving outcomes for children and families while also helping prevent more serious and costly medical complications later on.

Our members understand firsthand the importance of early intervention and maternal healthcare services because they see the consequences when families are unable to access timely care and support. Delays in developmental services for children can have lifelong consequences. Gaps in maternal healthcare can lead to worsening health outcomes for both parents and infants.

These challenges also place additional strain on hospitals, emergency departments, and healthcare workers who are already operating under significant pressure.

SEIU 1199NE particularly supports efforts to strengthen and stabilize the early intervention system through H-7586. Families across Rhode Island often face long waits and difficulty accessing services for children during critical developmental periods. Supporting these programs helps children receive care earlier, improves educational and health outcomes, and can reduce the need for more intensive interventions later in life.

SEIU 1199NE also supports H-7708's investments aimed at improving maternal health outcomes and addressing disparities in care. Rhode Island should continue working toward a healthcare

system where families can safely access prenatal care, postpartum care, behavioral health support, and other critical services regardless of income or zip code.

These investments benefit not only patients and families, but also the healthcare workforce and the long-term health and economic stability of Rhode Island.

We urge the committee to support H-7586 and H-7708.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alex Moore

Political Director

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