

# Smithfield Pediatrics

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**To:** House Health and Human Services

**From:** Dinusha Dietrich, MD on behalf of Smithfield Pediatrics

**Date:** 3/30/2026

**Re:** SUPPORT HB7627, Early Intervention Extension: Bridge to Preschool

Chair Donovan and esteemed committee members:

Smithfield Pediatrics is a small private practice located in Greenville, RI that provides care for children from birth to 18.

Smithfield Pediatrics strongly supports in support of H-7627, a bill that would allow children to stay in Early Intervention until the September after they turn three. The current Early Intervention system in RI is only required to serve children until they turn 3 and then they are immediately cut off. If children are still eligible for services, they are then supposed to be enrolled in their district's preschool special education program. Currently, finding a placement that meets the needs of these students is extremely difficult and children are losing out on valuable education and therapies, particularly when the child turns 3 after the school year is underway.

This bill would:

- Give families the choice of staying with their EI provider until the start of the school year after the child turns 3;
- Ensure continuity of care for children receiving services; and
- Provides adequate time and support for providers to ensure they are able to serve children past the age of 3.

The pediatric providers at Smithfield Pediatrics support this bill because we understand that the birth to 3 period is critical for brain development, and gaps in services for children with developmental delay have a negative impact on a child's ability to achieve and sustain age-appropriate milestones.

We urge you to vote in favor of bill H-7627/S-2834.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Dinusha W. Dietrich, MD  
Jennifer Barton, PA-C  
Hannah Marsland, PA-C