



3-30-26

The Honorable Susan R. Donovan  
Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services  
State of Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Support for H7627

Dear Chair Donovan,

I am writing to express my strong support for H7627, the Early Intervention Extension Bill. This legislation is critically important to families and children who rely on consistent, developmentally appropriate services during some of the most formative years of life.

My name is Monique DeRoche, and I am the Director of Family Service of Rhode Island's Early Intervention program. I have worked in Early Intervention for 18 years in a variety of roles, and I have had the opportunity to speak before you previously in support of funding for these critical services.

Early Intervention programs provide essential support for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities. For these children, even short interruptions in services can result in setbacks. Those born in May and June are disproportionately affected, as they may not receive consistent services through the summer, creating a 3-4 month's long gap in services before preschool-based services begin. As a result, families are left to navigate a confusing and stressful time without the necessary supports their children rely on.

Through the proposed bill, extending access to Early Intervention services through summer months ensures that children continue to receive the care, therapies, and resources they need without unnecessary disruption. For many families, these interventions are not optional, they are foundational to their child's ability to communicate, learn, and thrive.

My concern is without passing this bill for an extension of vital Early Intervention programming, young children and their families risk losing the gains that they have achieved, especially during a period when consistency is key to developmental progress. This bill helps bridge that gap for children with late spring birthdays, reducing stress for families and promoting better long-term outcomes for children.

I urge you to support H7627 and help ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Monique DeRoche  
Health Department Director  
Director, Early Intervention Program  
Family Service of Rhode Island