

Association of RI Administrators of Special Education: In support of H 7627

Sent via email to househealthandhumanservices@rilegislature.gov

March 30, 2026

Representative Susan R. Donovan., Chair
House Health and Human Services Committee
Rhode Island General Assembly
73 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

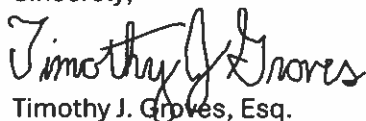
Dear Chairman Donovan,

I write as legal counsel for the Association of Rhode Island Administrators of Special Education (“ARIASE”) to support H 7627. ARIASE is the lone statewide association of special education administrators in Rhode Island, and its members are passionately committed to serving students with disabilities and working collaboratively with their families to enhance their educational opportunities and outcomes.

As you know, Early Intervention is a vital component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (“IDEA”), and it provides critical first steps toward identifying and supporting children with developmental delays before they enter preschool. The members of ARIASE are grateful to Representative Tanzi and her co-sponsors for recognizing and taking action to address a transition gap in the existing Early Intervention legislation that many families of toddlers and preschool-age children with disabilities have confronted over the years simply because their children happen to have summer birthdays. We also want to thank the Rhode Island Parent Information Network for its open and constructive engagement with families and Early Intervention providers on this issue.

ARIASE supports H 7627 and applauds the implementation advisory committee it would create to guide the transition to expanded Early Intervention eligibility. Although H 7627 does not specifically include an ARIASE representative on the committee, it would require that at least two members come from Local Education Agencies (“LEA”). ARIASE leaders would welcome the opportunity to nominate the special education director of an LEA to participate on the committee and support the implementation efforts of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Timothy J. Groves, Esq.