



April 28, 2026

Senate Committee on Education
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

I am writing to express my strong support for S2785, the Early Intervention Rates and Data Dashboard for EI. 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. I work with families in Rhode Island's core cities to improve their child's developmental growth and have nurtured and grown a team of pediatric professionals who love to support these children and families.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed bill to increase reimbursement rates for Early Intervention services. This legislation represents a critical step toward our state's commitment to strengthening a system that supports some of our most vulnerable children and their families during a foundational period of development.

Early Intervention providers play a vital role in identifying and addressing developmental delays in infants and toddlers. Yet current reimbursement rates have not kept pace with the rising costs of delivering high-quality care. This gap has placed significant financial strain on providers and, in the past, has contributed to workforce shortages and waitlists that limit timely access for families. It is essential that we act now to maintain a strong Early Intervention system in Rhode Island so that children receive the support they need when it matters most.

By increasing rates, this bill will help stabilize and grow the Early Intervention workforce, ensuring that qualified professionals can continue to provide timely, effective services. It will also safeguard access to care, particularly in underserved communities where disparities remain most pronounced.

Investing in Early Intervention is both fiscally responsible and socially impactful. Research consistently shows that early support reduces the need for more intensive and costly services later in life, while improving long-term outcomes in education, health, and overall well-being.

I urge the Committee to advance this bill and demonstrate a strong commitment to the children and families who rely on these vital services. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work on behalf of our communities.



Sincerely,

Monique DeRoche

Health Division Director
Director, Early Intervention Program
Family Service of Rhode Island