

April 30, 2026

The Honorable Louis P. DiPalma
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of S-2834

Chair DiPalma:

My name is Robin Szczoczarz and I am testifying in support of S-2834, 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.

My son has been diagnosed with developmental delay? Hyper kaneesia and ASD by age 2 5 . Early Intervention has been his only success with progress . This is a need for future progression as im also an occupational therapist and know the EI program starts the progress and help to decrease decline and live a potential management life.

I urge you to vote in favor of bill S-2834.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Your name
Email address
Phone Number
Home Address