



PO Box 1700
Woonsocket, RI 02895

401.235.7000
www.CommunityCareRI.org

May 5, 2026

Chair Abney/Chair DiPalma
House/Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House

Re: Support of the Family Home Visiting Bill H7794/S2845

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Community Care Alliance writes in strong support of Rep Giraldo's Home Visiting Bill H7794/ Senator Valverde's S2845 and encourages you to ensure that Rhode Island adequately funds the state's home visiting programs.

CCA is a provider of Healthy Families America which is a cornerstone home visiting program in RI. The highly qualified staff provide evidence-based parental support in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole and serve families primarily in the northern part of the state. Unlike many programs with short time limits, once enrolled, HFA home visitors can stay involved until the child's 5th birthday. It is difficult to measure the value of such long-term supportive relationships.

As required in **H7794 /S2845**, Rhode Island must meet the state funding matching requirements for the federal Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds to draw down federal funds so that high-quality programs are offered to all families who could benefit.

In FY25, Rhode Island was one of only 7 states that did not spend the required amount to draw down the full amount. In FY26, Rhode Island has put \$410,000 towards our \$535,000 match, which means we are leaving \$400,000 in federal funds on the table.

For FFY27, Rhode Island should make the \$787,000 investment to receive \$2.36 million in federal funds to fund these vital programs. This investment is not included in the Governor's proposed FY27 budget. We urge you pass **H7794/S2845** to ensure we can meet the federal match.

We also support the increased reporting requirements included in **H7794/S2845** so that the general assembly can help ensure the ongoing sustainability of these important programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Benedict F. Lessing, Jr.", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Benedict F. Lessing, Jr., MSW
President/CEO