

Template for Home Visiting Bills 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,

I am writing 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.

I have been working for Parents as Teachers for 28 years and over that period of time, I have seen how our program has changed the lives of many of our families – from helping support a parent who may be suffering from postpartum depression and doesn't know where to turn, to helping a family navigate getting their child connected to Early Intervention or the school district to ensure that they learn skills while the brain is developing rapidly to helping a parent understand how important their touch and eye contact is to their developing newborn so that child can bond with her parent which will affect her relationships for the rest of her life. Families need our program more than ever now during this complicated society that we live in with ever growing stresses.

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.

Thank you,



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