



February 6, 2025

Subject: Support for H-5164 – Early Childhood IDEA Task Force Bill

Dear Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am writing on behalf of SEIU 1199NE to express our strong support for the Early Childhood IDEA Task Force Bill (H-5164 [Carson]). Our union represents about 5,000 healthcare and service sector workers across Rhode Island, including roughly 400 family child care providers who care for our youngest residents.

This bill would establish a public-private task force to address the challenges in early intervention and special education services. For our members, who are directly involved in caring for children, improved funding, staffing, and more efficient evaluations would enhance the quality and timeliness of the services they provide.

By ensuring that children receive the support they need early on, this legislation benefits both the kids and the dedicated professionals who serve them every day. Strengthening early childhood services is an investment in a better future for Rhode Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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