

Chris O'Brien

From: Lima, Jennifer <jennifer_lima@nksd.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 3:36 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: H5462

H5462
Support
Jennifer Lima

I am writing today in support of H5462 which would give eligible families the opportunity to extend Early Intervention (EI) services until the September after a child's third birthday, to reduce gaps in services and promote smooth transitions into school-based special education services.

Under current law, Rhode Island's EI program ends on a child's third birthday, at which point school districts become responsible for providing special education services to eligible children. This is challenging because schools typically work on school year calendars, and school-based services are not always available immediately when a child turns three, especially if the child has a spring or summer birthday.

There are often gaps in services for children transitioning from EI to school-based special education, and these gaps could be avoided if families had the option to extend EI until the start of the next school year.

We know that early intervention in education is crucial for maximizing children's potential and preparing them for future academic and social success. We should do what we can to ensure continuous service at this critical time in a child's development.

Thank you,
Jennifer Lima
4 Hickory Drive East
North Kingstown, RI

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Jennifer Lima (she/her/hers)
North Kingstown School Committee Member
[Why Pronouns Matter](#)
[Talking About Pronouns in the Workplace - HRC Foundation \(thehrcfoundation.org\)](#)

"Diversity is a fact. Equity is a choice. Inclusion is an action. Belonging is an outcome." - Arthur Chan

My working hours may not be your working hours. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your normal work schedule.