

Chair DiPalma
Senate Finance Committee
Rhode Island State House

May 20, 2025

Re: Support of the Family Home Visiting bill S677

Dear Chair DiPalma and members of the Committee,

My name is Allison Devine and I live in Cumberland. **I write in strong support of S677, the RI Home Visiting Act, to focus on how to sustain Rhode Island's home visiting programs.**

As an anxious first-time mom, the First Connections home visiting program, which I received through Children's Friend, was extremely important in helping me become confident and secure in my parenting.

Due to some health complications, I was extremely anxious while pregnant and was very worried about bringing my baby, Caleb, home. While we have good family support, it was extremely helpful for my mental health to have a nurse come support us at home.

Having another contact person in addition to the pediatrician for general infant care questions and someone to ask follow-up questions after a pediatrician appointment was extremely helpful. It was also helpful to be in my own home for education on breastfeeding and infant care so the staff could see how my house was set up and talk about how things are being done in my own environment.

The First Connections staff were easy to work with, setting up appointments around mine and the baby's schedule. They also checked in on my physical health and made sure I had the resources I needed to recover from giving birth.

I hope you will pass S677 to ensure that other parents will have access to First Connections and other home visiting program.

Becoming a new parent is difficult – no matter what the family circumstances. Having resources like home visiting available to help moms and families feel more confident in a comfortable and conversational environment make a big difference.

Sincerely,
Allison Devine
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