



March 25, 2026

Chairman Teresa Tanzi
House Finance Committee
Subcommittee on Human Services
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Testimony regarding the Governor's FY2027 Budget re Social and Human Service Programs Medicaid rates

Dear Chair Tanzi and members of the committee,

Our testimony today concerns the Governor's FY2027 proposed budget related to the Medicaid rates, specifically those for home visiting programs and Early Intervention ("EI"). This budget proposes a phase-in of the rates recommended by the Office of Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) in its most recent report delivered as part of the Social and Human Services Review work. We thank the Governor for including this proposal in his proposed budget and encourage the General Assembly to adopt it.

We further encourage the General Assembly to FULLY implement the rates recommend by OHIC in the FY2027 budget rather than the proposed 2-step phase in of rates that starts October 1, 2026 (instead of July 1).

For 190 years, we at Children's Friend have worked to advance the well-being and healthy development of the youngest and most vulnerable children in Rhode Island. Today, alongside our permanency, nutrition services, child care, Head Start, and Pre-K programs, we serve 770 children in our Early Intervention program and almost 1,000 in our First Connections and Healthy Families America home visiting programs.

Both EI and home visiting programs work with families to reduce future barriers to success for the children – EI works to address any developmental delays and home visitors both help support young parents and also ensure children get off on the right foot. While the rate increases from two (2) years ago have helped us make these programs sustainable, the increased rates are needed to help ensure we can adequately hire and retain staff.

Thank you for your time and review of this testimony, and for your continued efforts to support the children who are the future of our state. If you have further questions or need any additional information, please contact me at dcaprio@cfsri.org.

Sincerely,

David Caprio
President and CEO

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