



MASSACHUSETTS EARLY INTERVENTION CONSORTIUM

Representing the 59 Early Intervention programs serving all 351 cities and towns across the Commonwealth

*Rachael Cracknell, President, North
Suffolk Mental Health Harbor Area EI*

*Anne Marsh, President-Elect/Region IV,
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*Robin Jones, President Emeritus,
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*Alex Chatfield, Treasurer, Minute Man
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*Colleen O'Brien, Region I, Behavioral
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*Maggie Finnegan, Region II, Criterion
Valley EI*

*Martha Levine, Region III, Northeast
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*Barbara Sanna Collins, Region V,
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*Nancy Lunden, Member at Large, The
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*Maura Murphy, Member at Large,
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*Barbara Prindle-Eaton, Member at
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Cod & Islands EI*

*Colleen Wellman, Member at Large,
Associates for Human Services - Taunton
EI*

July 18, 2022

The Honorable Charles D. Baker
Governor
State House Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

**RE: Early Intervention - Request to Approve Conference Funding and
Language in DPH Line Item 4513-1020 to Continue EI Workforce Recovery and
Health Equity Investments**

Dear Governor Baker:

We are writing on behalf of the Massachusetts Early Intervention Consortium to respectfully urge you to approve the Conference appropriation and funding of \$48.7 million for Early Intervention Services as outlined in DPH Line Item 4513-1020 of the FY'23 final budget.

This Conference budget allocation designating \$17.8 million with \$2 million set aside for health equity allocations, is critical to the overall effort to provide EI workforce recovery and health equity investments at a level that reflects the magnitude of the EI workforce shortage. This funding provides the statewide EI Programs with the resources needed to address this immense staffing challenge.

The Commonwealth's 59 Early Intervention Programs are struggling with rising referrals in the midst of an unprecedented 36% staffing shortage. These staffing vacancies are impeding both EI program recovery and restoration of service hours. Programs are losing clinical staff every day to other settings including schools, private clinics, EEC programs and out of state.

We thank you and the Administration for acknowledging the dedication of the Early Intervention clinicians and support staff and the need to increase salaries, bonuses and address on-boarding costs for these critical members of the health care workforce.



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We respectfully urge you to approve the Early Intervention Conference budget funding to help achieve our mutual goal of stabilizing and rebuilding the EI workforce and staffing capacity to restore service hours and support access to critical EI services for children and families across the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Rachael Cracknell

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cc:

Karyn Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Michael Heffernan, Secretary, Administration and Finance

James Cowdell, Director of Legislative Affairs, Administration and Finance

Katherine Holahan, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Governor

Marylou Sudders, Secretary, EOHHS

Daniel Shark, Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance, EOHHS

Katherine Ginnis, EOHHS, Senior Director of Child, Youth & Family Policy and Programs

Margret Cooke, Commissioner, DPH

Ryan McGeown-Conron, Director, Legislative Affairs, DPH

Elaine Fitzgerald Lewis, Director, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, DPH

Emily White, Director, Division of Early Intervention, DPH

The Honorable, Sal DiDomenico, Senate Assistant Majority Leader

The Honorable, Paul McMurtry, Chairman, Joint Committee Veterans and Federal Affairs



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