

Testimony in Support of *SB-2834*  
Early Intervention Extension - Bridge To Preschool  
Senate Committee on Finance  
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Divya Nair, Senior Policy Analyst, Economic Progress Institute

**The Economic Progress Institute supports Senator Valverde’s SB-2834**, which would extend Early Intervention services for children with developmental disabilities whose third birthday is between May 1 and August 31.

All children deserve equal access to high-quality education. For babies and young children with disabilities or developmental delays, Rhode Island’s Early Intervention program, which provides free developmental and educational support for children under the age of three, is a critical piece of achieving equal access to high-quality education. Additionally, Rhode Island has struggled to meet the federal requirement of providing Early Intervention services within 45 days. As of January 2026, there are 134 infants and toddlers who have been waiting for Early Intervention services for an average of 102 days, which is in violation of state and federal requirements.<sup>1</sup> Early Intervention has been proven to have lasting beneficial effects throughout a child’s life, improving socioemotional development, academic performance, and employment outcomes.<sup>2</sup>

Senator Valverde’s SB-2834 would allow families to choose to continue Early Intervention services for a period after their child turns three. This would encourage a **more seamless transition to preschool special education and reduce service gaps** for children with spring and summer birthdays. Rhode Island would join six states and D.C., in expanding Early Intervention services beyond age three, including our neighbor, Connecticut.

By extending Early Intervention beyond a child’s third birthday, Rhode Island would ensure that young children with developmental delays and disabilities receive the services they need when they need it the most. The Economic Progress Institute urges passage.

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<sup>1</sup> [Right from the Start Early Intervention, Factsheet, 2026](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Importance of early intervention as it relates to developmental delay or disabilities, 2023](#)