MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislators, Directors, Staff and Media

FROM: Jack Moffitt, Clerk of the Legislature

DATE: March 10, 2020

RE: Substitution of Referral No. 20-0048

At the direction of President Dr. Joe Carbone, memorializing referral no. 20-0048 entitled, "Memorializing the NYS Assembly and Senate to Pass and Governor Andrew Cuomo to Sign A00356 and S03338 Entitled, "Provides for State Funding to Municipalities for Early Intervention Services for Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families", to Review and Revise Reimbursement Rates for Early Intervention Services, Establish Rate Equity between Early Intervention and Preschool Education Services, and Authorize a Covered Lives Assessment for EI Providers to Access Payment for Services – Democratic Minority Leader Vincent R. Felder" has been replaced with the attached document.

Attachments
March 9, 2020

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

RE: Memorializing the NYS Assembly and Senate to Pass and Governor Andrew Cuomo to Sign A00356 and S03338 Entitled, “Provides for State Funding to Municipalities for Early Intervention Services for Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families”, to Review and Revise Reimbursement Rates for Early Intervention Services, Establish Rate Equity between Early Intervention and Preschool Education Services, and Authorize a Covered Lives Assessment for EI Providers to Access Payment for Services

Honorable Legislators,

Early intervention has successfully helped children with disabilities and their families. We have witnessed first-hand the children who have benefitted and it is imperative we have enough providers and service coordinators to carry out this important work at a fair wage. In addition, we appeal to Governor Cuomo to ensure the Early Intervention Program more closely aligns with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a federal education law, of which it is part.

Reimbursement rates for providers, which did not restart 2009 rate reductions, and service coordinators for EI and Preschool Special Education have not been adjusted since 2011, and as a result many providers are dropping out of the program. Counties across New York State, including Monroe County, are facing a shortage of providers, as well as service coordinators. This is quickly becoming a crisis, especially in Monroe County. In addition, we ask New York State to revise the wage structure statewide to ensure rates are in keeping with the cost of living and to establish rate equity between the EI and Preschool Special Education programs.

Specifically, we ask that the State:
- Change state health law relating to coverage for EI services by passing bills A00356/S03338, and signing into law to increase reimbursement from private health insurance companies and authorize the covered lives program.
- Raise reimbursement rates for EI and Preschool Special Education Services by a minimum of fifteen percent each
- Establish funding and reimbursement rate equity between the EI Preschool Special Education systems.
Therefore, we respectfully urge you to join us in memorializing the NYS Assembly and Senate to Pass, and Governor Andrew Cuomo to Sign A00356 and S03338 Entitled, “Provides for State Funding to Municipalities for Early Intervention Services for Toddlers with Disabilities and their families”.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vincent R. Felder
Monroe County Legislature
Democratic Minority Leader

George J. Hebert
Monroe County Legislator
District 15

Dr. Joe Carbone
Monroe County Legislature
President

R. Edwin Will
Monroe County Legislator
District 1

Jackie Smith
Monroe County Legislator
District 2

Tracy DiFlorio
Monroe County Legislator
District 3

Frank X. Allicofer
Monroe County Legislator
District 4

Karla Boyce
Monroe County Legislator
District 5

Fred Ancello
Monroe County Legislator
District 6

Brian E. Marianetti
Monroe County Legislature
Vice President

Matthew Terp
Monroe County Legislator
District 8

Paul Dondorfer
Monroe County Legislator
District 9

Howard Maffucci
Monroe County Legislator
District 10

Sean M. Delehanty
Monroe County Legislator
District 11
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39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

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Early intervention has successfully helped children with disabilities and their families. We have witnessed first-hand the children who have benefitted and it is imperative we have enough providers and service coordinators to carry out this important work at a fair wage. In addition, we appeal to Governor Cuomo to ensure the Early Intervention Program more closely aligns with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a federal education law, of which it is part.

Reimbursement rates for providers and service coordinators for EI and Preschool Special Education have not been adjusted since 2011, and as a result many providers are dropping out of the program. Counties across New York State, including Monroe County, are facing a shortage of providers, as well as service coordinators. This is quickly becoming a crisis, especially in Monroe County. In addition, we ask New York State to revise the wage structure statewide to ensure rates are in keeping with the cost of living and to establish rate equity between the EI and Preschool Special Education programs.

Specifically, we ask that the State:
- Raise reimbursement rates for EI and Preschool Special Education Services by a minimum of fifteen percent each.
- Change state health law relating to coverage for EI services by passing bills A00356/S03338, and signing into law to increase reimbursement from private health insurance companies.
- Authorize a covered lives assessment for EI Insurance that requires insurance companies to pay into a “pool” from which providers can invoice directly.
- Establish funding and reimbursement rate equity between the EI Preschool Special Education systems.
Therefore, we respectfully urge you to join us in memorializing the NYS Assembly and Senate to Pass, and Governor Andrew Cuomo to Sign A00356 and S03338 Entitled, “Provides for State Funding to Municipalities for Early Intervention Services for Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families”.

Vincent R. Felder  
Democratic Minority Leader

Ernest S. Flagler-Mitchell  
Assistant Minority Leader

Joshua Bauroth  
Assistant Minority Leader

Howard Maffucci  
Legislator – District 10

Michael Yudelson  
Legislator – District 13

Justin Wilcox  
Legislator – District 14

Joseph Morelle, Jr.  
Legislator – District 17

John B. Baynes  
Legislator – District 18

Rachel Barnhart  
Legislator – District 21

Linda Hasman  
Legislator – District 23

John Lightfoot  
Legislator – District 25

Yversha Román  
Legislator – District 26

Sabrina A. LaMar  
Legislator – District 27

Frank Keophetlasay  
Legislator – District 28