

To: Ways & Means Capital Construction Subcommittee  
From: [Alliance for Early Intervention](#)  
Date: March 5, 2024  
Re: \$22 million in funding for EI/ECSE in SB 5701

Co-Chairs Girod & Holvey and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to say thank you for including \$22 million for Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education in SB 5701 to restore the cut that was made to these services in the 2023 legislative session. Adding back this \$22 million restores Current Service Level for this critical program.

All children are born full of potential, and before the age of 5 children make 1 million neural connections each second, establishing critical brain architecture. This is why it is essential to support children's development early, and this is especially important for children with disabilities.

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education serves children age birth to Kindergarten entry who experience disabilities and significant delays. These services support child development, prepare children and families for Kindergarten, and support inclusion of children with disabilities with their peers - which benefits all children.

Looking toward the 2025 legislative session, the Alliance for Early Intervention will work with elected leaders, state agencies, and community stakeholders to review the recommended Adequate Service Level for children with disabilities and delays. Current Service Level is not providing children with disabilities the early support we know they need. We urge your continued attention to this program.

Sincerely,

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