Action Alert: Protect Access to Early Intervention Services

Sample Email

Protect Early Intervention

As a [parent of a child who receives Early Intervention services], I am very concerned about the Early Intervention budget proposals. First, just as health insurance representatives do not participate in meetings between doctors and patients, health insurance representatives should not be able to participate in IFSP meetings. The role of health insurance companies should be to help pay for services, not to decide what services are appropriate. Second, I am concerned that the proposal would restrict access to services by requiring the use of in-network evaluators and providers without a clear process for getting an exception. Young children should have access to the most appropriate EI providers regardless of their health insurance networks. Third, I am concerned that the requirements that EI providers negotiate their rates with health insurance companies and file appeals of health insurance claim denials will drive experienced providers from the EI field, making it harder for young children to access the services they need. Fourth, I am concerned that children who already have a diagnosed physical or mental condition likely to result in a developmental delay would no longer have the right to a full initial EI evaluation, making it harder to determine the type and amount of services that would be appropriate.

Please ensure that the budget addresses these concerns and protects access to high-quality EI services.

Key legislators include:

Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried: GottfriedR@assembly.state.ny.us or 518-455-4941

Senate Health Committee Chair Kemp Hannon: hannon@nysenate.gov or 518-455-2200

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver: Speaker@assembly.state.ny.us or 518-455-3791

Senate Co-Leader Dean Skelos: skelos@nysenate.gov or 518-455-3171

Senate Co-Leader Jeffrey Klein: jdklein@senate.state.ny.us or 518-455-3595