

October 3, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association (PSHA), we are writing to express our deep concern regarding the devastating impact of the current state budget impasse on Early Intervention (EI) services across the Commonwealth.

Speech-language pathologists and audiologists working in Early Intervention programs are reporting widespread nonpayment and delayed reimbursement for services they continue to provide to Pennsylvania's most vulnerable children. These services are essential in helping infants and toddlers develop the communication skills needed for lifelong success, yet providers are increasingly unable to sustain this work without timely reimbursement.

Key findings from our recent survey of EI providers include:

- Many providers have gone **unpaid since July 1**, with some owed thousands of dollars for services already rendered.
- Agencies have been forced to **reduce services by up to 31%** or cut staff, and some providers have been furloughed or terminated.
- Independent contractors and small agencies are especially vulnerable, with some considering leaving EI work entirely due to financial hardship.
- Providers have expressed that the uncertainty and lack of payment is preventing them from accepting new cases, directly threatening children's access to mandated services.
- Several respondents noted that agencies are resorting to loans to cover salaries while the state delays its obligations.

The consequences are dire as children risk losing access to critical early intervention services, families are left without needed support, and Pennsylvania's provider network faces further destabilization against a backdrop of already existent staffing shortages. Our members have been clear: they want to serve these children, but cannot continue without fair and timely compensation.

We urge you to take immediate action to resolve the state budget impasse and ensure the uninterrupted funding of Early Intervention programs. Timely passage of a budget is not simply a matter of fiscal procedure, it is a matter of protecting children's futures and supporting the professionals dedicated to their growth and development.

We respectfully request your leadership to prioritize this issue and safeguard the Early Intervention system that countless Pennsylvania families depend upon.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicole Billak, President and Tamara Sepe, VP Governmental Affairs
Pennsylvania Speech-Language-Hearing Association