

Submitter:	Krista Shultz
On Behalf Of:	SB1167
Committee:	Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB1167

I am writing in support of SB 1167. I have worked as an early childhood special educator and a regular education teacher (3rd and 4th grade), and also as a childbirth educator, for several decades. I know first hand how positive outcomes for children are increased when their mothers received positive supports and care from pregnancy and beyond. Children who come onto my caseload whose mothers received no care typically require more resources than those who have been supported all along. As a civilized, advanced society, it is the right thing to do to support our mothers and children from the beginning. If we want to look at how it saves money and resources, here is an example from my current work as an early interventionist. I work with a family that has an autistic toddler and a pregnant mama. This mama has been struggling with depression, which has a negative impact on her child's development. I needed to increase my service time by double in order to support this family. However, once I connected her with a local pregnancy support organization, she was able to get a doula who is providing home visits during the pregnancy and will continue after the pregnancy. This resource has allowed me to focus my visits solely on the toddler and I've been able to reduce my service time. By receiving support during and after her pregnancy, this new baby will have a better outcome and have a reduced need for services later.

Here is another story- my daughter works for a non-profit that provides professional mentors for children who come from families with little to no supports. These children have reached elementary school and now require countless hours of school and community resources. If they and their mothers had received early supports, from pregnancy on, their need for extra help and resources in elementary school would have decreased.

Please pass this bill. It is the right thing to do.

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