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## Statement of Support 10-9-17

### **MAASE supports state funding for Early On® services to infants and toddlers with disabilities.**

*Early On®* is Michigan's system to provide early intervention services to families with children birth to age three who have a developmental delay or a diagnosed health condition that could lead to such delay. *Early On®* specializes in evaluating and serving children that are not developing at the same rate as other children in many areas including physical, cognitive, communication, adaptive, and social-emotional development.

Michigan receives federal funding for *Early On®*, but is the only state that does not invest in its own early intervention system with a statewide allocation. The average state level contribution nationwide is approximately one-third of the total cost. With only federal dollars specifically targeted to serve this population, services to these children are inadequately funded. The lack of investment in early intervention, which research supports has the best opportunity for long-term impact, is a missed opportunity that is costly to children, families and the state system of education.

MAASE has worked closely with the *Early On®* Foundation and Michigan's Children to provide relevant information related to state allocation needs. The *Early On®* Foundation has developed the attached statements from this collaborative work. **MAASE fully supports the attached *Early On®* Foundation's October 6, 2017 Recommendation for State Allocation of Funding – Initial Allocation and Rationale for State Allocation of Funding statements.**