# Petition to Immediately Restore Timely Payments to EI Providers and Other Vendors of Department of Human Services (DHS)

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| Petition summary and background | Illinois' Early Intervention providers, those individuals and organizations that are contracted by the State that are specifically educated, trained and credentialed to provide services to children ages birth to three years of age with diagnoses, prematurity or delays greater than 30% in their development, are being forced to consider withholding treatment services. The physical, occupational, speech and developmental therapists that support the children in the EI program provide valuable services that, should they cease, be detrimental to our State's youngest and most vulnerable citizens. EI providers along with other vendors of DHS are currently experiencing delays of payment by the State for services authorized and rendered. Mr. Daniel Hynes, Comptroller for the State of Illinois, has stated that as of November 13, 2008 there is an unprecedented bill backlog of nearly $4 billion that could balloon to more than $5 billion by March, and has urged state leaders to take immediate steps to ease the crisis which is threatening service providers and government units across Illinois. He has called this current 12-week payment delay that vendors face "untenable" and notes that payment delays could rise to 20 weeks by spring. Comptroller Hynes also states that "To call this an imminent crisis is an understatement." |
| Action petitioned for | We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to immediately restore timely payments to Illinois' Early Intervention providers so that vulnerable children with delays and disabilities and their families will continue to receive the services that are necessary for them to fully participate in their natural environments. |

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