



MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR MINNESOTA

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Dear Members of the Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee,

The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, representing 3,200 family physicians in the state of Minnesota, supports HF 2111 and Minnesota's Reach Out and Read program.

Family physicians take care of patients at all stages of life and recognize that early childhood interventions are critical not only to the success and wellbeing of our youngest citizens, but also to address the deep disparities in our state. Multiple studies in high risk populations show that the Reach Out and Read model, which includes advising parents of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children about the importance of reading aloud, counseling parents about specific book-related strategies, modeling, and providing developmentally appropriate books to children at clinic visits, result in parents being more likely to regularly read with their children. In addition, these children are more likely to have significantly improved language development by the age of 24 months when compared with their non-participating peers. (*Pediatrics* August, 2014)

Please support HF 2111 and the investment in improving the literacy of Minnesota's children by expanding the Reach Out and Read program to all communities and to all children and their families in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Glenn Nemec, MD, FAAFP
President, Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians