



Minnesota policymakers,

We are writing to express our strong support for **H.F. 3544/S.F. 3596 to help sustain and expand the Reach Out and Read Minnesota early learning program throughout our state.**

The Reach Out and Read program is a powerful, evidenced-based tool to support the families of young children during their critical early years of development. Research informs us that a child's first years of life set the stage for their future success and their long-term health outcomes. When children and their caregivers participate in loving, language-rich interactions, like reading a book together, the effects are powerful and compounding; children's brains rapidly absorb new information, stress is reduced for both child and adult, and the bond between caregiver and child grows.

When clinicians trained in the Reach Out and Read model provide books and guidance to the families of young children during their well-child visits, they are equipping families with both knowledge and tools to build a bright future for their children. The evidence for this program's effectiveness is astounding:

- Participating children greatly improve their receptive and expressive language skills.
- Participating families read more often in their homes and are more likely to cite reading as a favorite activity.
- Participating clinics see higher rates of attendance at well-child visits, higher morale among clinic staff, and improved relationships between healthcare providers and the families they serve.


These effects have been proven to be especially acute in underserved communities, including low-income, rural, and/or highly diverse populations.

Reach Out and Read Minnesota is unique in its multi-generational, evidence-based approach, and its low-cost scalability. The program currently partners with over 280 clinics in each region of the state and serves over 160,000 children annually. It is the only early literacy intervention with a broad enough scope to potentially serve over 90% of young children in the state before they enter kindergarten.

Your support of H.F. 3544/S.F. 3546 will be a major investment in the learning, health, and future success of young children across the state.

Sincerely,

Minnesota Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics 
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