

January 23, 2015

Senator Dante Bartolomeo

Representative Diana Urban

Committee on Children

State Capitol Building, Room 011

Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Bartolomeo and Representative Urban:

My name is Amaris Delgado and I am here today to testify in favor of Senate Bill 209 that provides funding for the Reach Out and Read program in Connecticut.

My children ages 13, 10 and 7 have grown up around books since the age of 6 months. Our pediatrician's office provided a brand new book at every well child visit since the age of 6 months. This encouraged me and my family to show and read books to them even at this early age. As they grew they would love to go and pick one out at their visits and even pick out a different one for their siblings.

Also working in Primary Care at Connecticut Children's helped me understand the importance of reading to my children and how to increase our time reading and talking. Below is the words of my 10 year old daughter Abigail about books.

"Everytime I would go to a physical I loved picking out a book. Most of the books on my bookshelf are those books. They helped me become a very strong reader. I am above my grades reading level. It also helped me become a great writer. It opened up my imagination and most of all it challenged me. In conclusion, the books I picked at my physicals helped me a lot!"

Amaris Delgado

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