

01/26/2015

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The Honorable Dante Bartolomeo  
The Honorable Diana Urban  
Committee on Children  
State Capitol Building, Room 011  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB 209, An Act Concerning Funding for Reach Out and Read

Dear Senator Bartolomeo, Representative Urban and Members of the Education Committee

I am writing today to lend my support to SB 209 An Act Concerning Funding for Reach Out and Read. The importance of reading to young children is critical to their future development. Books are distributed to the children during regular well child visits from six months of age up to five years. The treating physician provides the book to the child as they enter the room, explaining to the child's parents the importance of reading regularly to their child so that good literacy habits begin at an early age.

For example, one resident physician who had been treating a young girl since she was a six-month-old newborn was providing the patient with books during regular office visits. During a recent visit, the physician entered the room that the four-year-old patient was waiting in, without a book to provide the young girl. The physician was surprised that the young patient was looking forward to receiving her book during this visit. This example demonstrates the effectiveness of the program from the patient's perspective, because the young girl wanted to continue the reading habits she had started at an earlier age.

It is important to consider that as newly minted physicians graduate from the program, and begin treating patients in their own practices, that they continue to promote reading at a young age. This will be possible with the continued assistance of Reach Out and Read. I ask that you support SB 209, An Act Concerning Funding for Reach Out and Read. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Rita Bafumi