



**Center for the
Study of
Social Policy**
Ideas into Action

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March 30, 2021

RE: Reach Out and Read

Dear Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

I am writing in support of the Reach Out and Read proposal within the Department of Education's budget. Reach Out and Read is an evidence-based activity within child health care clinics in Oregon that promotes strong parent-child relationships for child development with guidance that begins within well-child care of talking, reading and singing and then book sharing at every visit. Reach Out and Read has increasingly become a strategy for building strong early relational health and the health foundations for early literacy.

As Oregon's Health Care Authority and Early Learning Division are both committed to improving child wellbeing and kindergarten readiness, Reach Out and Read is a major strategy that has the potential to impact the lives of all children in Oregon, if the model continues to be expanded.

As a member of Reach Out and Read's Advisory Board, I'm in full support of their vision of Reach Out and Read for all of Oregon's Children.

We welcome your support of this valuable program.

Sincerely,

David W. Willis, MD, FAAP
Senior Fellow
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