SUPPORT CHILDHOOD LITERACY IN FY16!

Support Funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Competitive Grant Program in FY16 by Signing onto the Reed-Grassley-Stabenow-Wicker Letter to the Appropriators

• Exposure to books is an essential part of early childhood literacy and school readiness, yet two-thirds of children living in poverty have no books at home. And, the number of families living in poverty is on the rise.

• Congress included $25 million in the FY15 Omnibus Appropriations bill, within the Labor-HHS-Education division under the FIE account, for a competitive grant program administered through the U.S. Department of Education to support school libraries and national nonprofit literacy organizations working with children in need.

• Research has proven that access to quality literacy resources has a direct positive relationship to reading behavior and motivation. Moreover, access to an effective school library program is vital for preparing students for college and career.

• In a 2009 survey, Primary Sources: America’s Teachers on America’s Schools, teachers reported that 82% of elementary students, 87% of middle school students and 80% of high school students most often get their books for independent reading in school libraries.

• Reach Out and Read, Reading Is Fundamental, Save the Children and school libraries have joined together to advocate for the continued funding of this critical competitive grant program.

Support children’s literacy today by signing the Reed-Grassley-Stabenow-Wicker letter to the Appropriators.

To sign on, contact Moira Lenehan-Razzuri in Senator Reed’s office (moira_lenehan@reed.senate.gov) or James Rice in Senator Grassley’s office (james_rice@grassley.senate.gov)

THE DEADLINE ON THE LETTER IS MARCH 20TH.