



March 14, 2019

Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division  
State Office Building  
100 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Members of the Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division:

The Minnesota Medical Association is the professional association of physicians, residents, and medical students. On behalf of the MMA's 10,000 members, I am pleased to offer the physician community's support of HF 2264. The MMA has been a supporter of the Reach Out and Read program since 1997 when the first medical clinics began participating.

The Reach Out and Read program has demonstrated impact in increasing the rates at which parents read aloud to their children. Peer reviewed studies have found that parents who are served by Reach Out and Read services are four times more likely to read with their children, and children with access to Reach Out and Read have higher receptive and expressive vocabulary skills. Children with access to Reach Out and Read have a language development advantage of three to six months over those who are not served by the program. The small investment in Reach Out and Read has tremendous return on investment, leading to children ready to learn in school.

Families are well served by Reach Out and Read, too. Research has shown that parents who participate in the program group have higher rates of adherence to Well Child visits to health care providers, a vital means to monitor kid's health and development. Parents in Reach Out and Read were two times more likely to report enjoyment in reading together with their child than those in the non-Reach Out and Read group.

Thank you for your consideration. The MMA respectfully urges your support for this successful, innovative program.

Sincerely,

Doug Wood  
President  
Minnesota Medical Association