

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2007

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,  
Health and Human Services, and  
Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
and Education  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Specter:

As your Subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Education, we urge you to recommend \$25,043,040 for the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Inexpensive Book Distribution Program.

RIF is the nation's oldest and largest children's literacy organization. In partnerships with thousands of schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and corporations across the country, RIF provides millions of underserved children with free books for personal ownership, develops research-based resources to guide educators, parents, and other care providers in creating literacy-rich environments for children, and works to ensure that every child, no matter socio-economic status, is motivated to read and has the opportunity to experience the wonder of books.

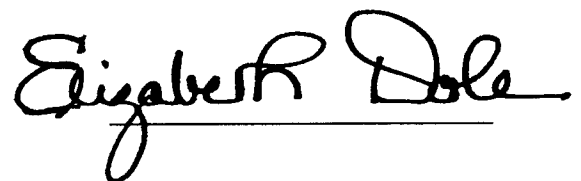
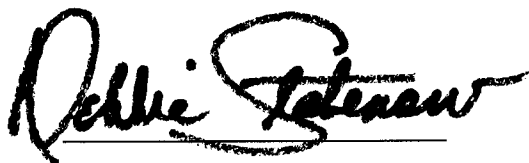
With the support of Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, and private funders, RIF distributed over 16 million books last year to nearly 4.5 million children across the country. Close to 89 percent of the federal funds were used to purchase books, and RIF volunteers leveraged these federal dollars to raise an additional \$9.2 million to support book ownership.

The request for level funding in FY2008 will enable RIF to continue supporting some of our nation's most underserved children. Moreover, RIF brings more quality training and resources to parents, childcare providers, and volunteers about the best ways to motivate and inspire children to read.

The RIF Inexpensive Book Distribution Program enriches the lives of children in every state and territory in the United States. We ask you to support this program by allocating a \$25,043,040 appropriation in the FY2008 Department of Education budget and as requested by the Administration.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Walter

Susan M. Collins

Ben

Robert Menendez

Byron

Jim

Chuck Schumer

Rick Warren

Dick

Angie Klobuchar

Ken

Joe

Joe

Shirley

Jay

Kent

George V. Voinovich Blanche R. Lincoln

Max Baucus Fran Cardin

Joe Roberts Bob Casey

Daniel X. Claitor

Chris Coons

Sheldon Whitehouse

Jon Tester

Mark Warner

Mark Wyden

Max Baucus

John E. Sununu

Bill Nelson

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Alexis Deane

John Eriqson

Jeff Sessions

Tom F. Kelly

Bob Casey, Jr.

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Chris Dodd

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Eric Boyl

J. G.

Ed Kennedy

Phil Martin

Stent Lott

Patrick Leahy

Carl Levin

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