



NORTHEAST REGION

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**REACH OUT AND READ, NORTHEAST ENDORSES MASSACHUSETTS
BILL TO ADVANCE EARLY LITERACY, CHILD WELL-BEING**

Supporting Bill H.4683 underscores a commitment to advancing proven approaches that strengthen literacy, learning, and child well-being statewide.

BOSTON (May 1, 2026) -- [Reach Out and Read, Northeast](#) is endorsing Massachusetts Bill H.4683, an act to promote high-quality early literacy instruction, as part of its commitment to ensuring the long-term well-being of Massachusetts' children. Currently, only four out of 10 third-graders in the state are proficient in reading, underscoring the urgent need for action to ensure that all children across Massachusetts gain the confidence and skills to become lifelong readers.

As an organization built on an evidence-based pediatric literacy model endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Reach Out and Read, Northeast's mission is rooted in the supporting the health, well-being, and literacy development of children of all backgrounds. Over 20 independent, peer-reviewed studies demonstrate the nonprofit model's effectiveness in promoting early literacy and language development in young children, and Reach Out and Read supports evidence-based, high-quality literacy efforts that are similarly grounded in research. Expanding access to this type of instruction in schools aligns with this commitment to evidence-based practice.

"Literacy is such a powerful social determinant of health that improving fourth-grade reading achievement is an important element of the government's Healthy People 2030 plan. Overall trends are alarming because every child deserves a bright, healthy, language-rich future," said Alex Chu, Reach Out and Read, Northeast Executive Director. "However, we are particularly concerned about children in the groups that continue to experience widening achievement gaps. We prioritize supporting programs in historically marginalized communities to ensure that every child arrives at school ready to become a successful reader."

Massachusetts Bill H.4683 outlines a framework for expanding access to high-quality, evidence-based literacy instruction while strengthening support systems for educators — another critical element of Reach Out and Read's evidence-based model. If enacted, it is expected to help improve reading proficiency rates, address persistent achievement gaps, and ensure more students are on track for long-term academic success. The legislation also emphasizes the importance of educator preparation and ongoing professional development, key components in delivering effective literacy instruction from the earliest years.

"This work is not possible without effective professional development and teacher preparation, which ensures educators feel supported and equipped to meet the needs of all students," Chu said. "Reading is a complex process, and by aligning with what evidence has shown as best practice, educators, advocates, and organizations across the literacy sector can ensure that every child has access to the experiences necessary to build strong, lifelong literacy skills."

To learn more about Reach Out and Read Northeast please visit rorne.org.

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About Reach Out and Read: For more than 35 years, Reach Out and Read has leveraged the near-universal reach of the pediatric well-child visit to promote positive parent-child interactions and early language development. We pair guidance from trusted clinicians about the importance of daily shared reading with the gift of a developmentally appropriate book in the family's home language. This gives families with young children the knowledge and tools they need to nurture their child's early development. We reach 4.8 million children aged five and under annually (including more than 190,000 children in Massachusetts), an impact made possible by our commitment to evidence-based practice.

About Reach Out and Read, Northeast: Reach Out and Read, Northeast is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that promotes Early Relational Health and language development at well-child visits in clinics throughout Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Upstate New York. We partner with medical practitioners at 623 program sites in the region and serve more than 380,000 children and their families annually. To learn more, please visit rorne.org.