



Reading Recovery® Council
of North America

June 9, 2008

The Honorable Jason Altmire
U.S. House of Representatives
1419 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3804

Dear Representative Altmire:

The Reading Recovery Council of North America (RRCNA) supports HR 3718, the Educational Advisor and Contractor Integrity Act, which requires the U.S. Department of Education to establish a screening process to address conflicts of interest for advisory committee members and Department contractors for programs authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act.

RRCNA requested and welcomed the Inspector General investigation into Reading First. Following findings that a small number of individuals dominated almost every aspect of Reading First implementation, RRCNA called for broadened representation on peer review and other panels convened by the Department. HR 3718 will go a long way toward assuring greater representation by the education community on behalf of research, assessments, instruction and approaches to benefit our nation's children, educational systems and communities.

RRCNA also recommends reform of Reading First and other programs administered by the Department to 1) recognize one-to-one instruction as an option for states, districts and schools, and to 2) update the definitions of "essential components of reading instruction" and "scientifically based reading research" to reflect our better understanding of these elements since passage of the No Child Left Behind Act.

We look forward to working with you to assure a literate future for every child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jady Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jady Johnson
Executive Director