

THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, MA 02133

Honorable Brian Dempsey
Chairman, House Committee on Ways & Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

March 31, 2014

RE: Line item 7030-1005 Reading Recovery

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It was very disheartening this fall to learn that third grade reading scores on the MCAS test had dropped, with 43% of students not reading at a proficient level. However, with many cities and towns still recovering from the recession, school districts have had to cut back on literacy interventions and programs that helped boost scores in the past.

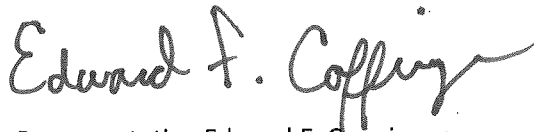
Reading Recovery was particularly hard hit. Funding was cut from \$2.9 million in FY09 to only \$350,000 in FY14. The number of districts implementing the Reading Recovery intervention dropped from 75 to only 42 today. Many of the districts still implementing Reading Recovery, Haverhill being one, have had to dramatically scale back the number of students they serve.

Yet, early intervention is the best way to help struggling kids and Reading Recovery is one of the most effective means we have. A review of research by the federally funded What Works Clearinghouse has shown Reading Recovery to be the most effective literacy program across all measures. A three year KPMG study in England found Reading Recovery to save enormous costs over time. And, the most recent evaluation of Reading Recovery funded through the federal i3 grant program, which includes Massachusetts, found "large positive effects on student literacy performance overall, and these positive effects were also large for ELL students and students in rural schools."

Governor Patrick's H.2 budget eliminates line item 7030-1005 for Reading Recovery, early intervention. The money is consolidated into line item 7010-0033, which funds a variety of

literacy initiatives, but not early intervention. We ask restoration of line item 7030-1005 for Reading Recovery and an increase in funding to \$800,000 to restore a small portion of the money that has been cut in recent years.

Thank you for your support of Reading Recovery.



Representative Edward F. Coppinger
10th Suffolk District



Representative Linda Campbell
15th Essex District



Representative Cleon H. Turner
1st Barnstable District



Representative Frank I. Smizik
15th Norfolk District



Representative Frank A. Moran
17th Essex District



Representative David M. Rogers
24th Middlesex District



Representative Paul R. Heroux
2nd Bristol District



Representative Diana DiZoglio
14th Essex District



Representative Timothy J. Toomey
26th Middlesex District



Representative Gailanne M. Cariddi
1st Berkshire District



Representative Paul W. Mark
2nd Berkshire District



Representative Kimberly N. Ferguson
1st Worcester District



Representative Aaron Vega
5th Hampden District



Representative Brian M. Ashe
2nd Hampden District



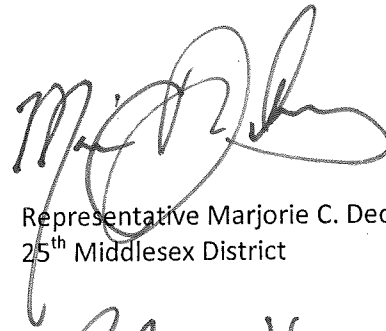
Representative Carlo Basile
1st Suffolk District



Representative Gloria L. Fox
7th Suffolk District



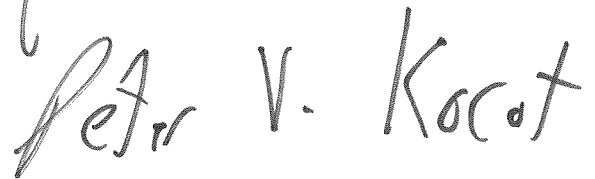
Representative Ellen Story
3rd Hampshire District



Representative Marjorie C. Decker
25th Middlesex District



Representative Paul McMurry
11th Norfolk District



Representative Peter V. Kocot
1st Hampshire District



Representative Kay Khan
11th Middlesex District



Senator Michael F. Rush
Suffolk & Norfolk District

William N. Brownsberger

Senator William N. Brownsberger
Second Suffolk & Middlesex District