

## **Council supports reintroduction of comprehensive literacy legislation**

RRCNA is proud to join other education stakeholders in support of legislation that would strengthen literacy programs and support professional development.

The Literacy Education for All, Results for the Nation (LEARN) Act was reintroduced on June 23 by Congressmen John Yarmuth (D-KY) and Jared Polis (D-CO). The bill would develop a national comprehensive literacy strategy and fund local literacy programs to ensure that students obtain the reading and writing skills necessary to succeed in school and life. The LEARN Act aims to expand literacy programs for students in Grades 4-12; support professional development; and refocus efforts to better instruct at-risk youth, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

In support of the bill, RRCNA Executive Director Jady Johnson said, "It is well known that a focus on effective teacher development and integrated interventions support student success. The Reading Recovery Council of North America is proud to have worked with Congressman Yarmuth on the LEARN Act to incorporate those strategies into a comprehensive approach to student success."

"Literacy skills are fundamental to a good education, a successful career and a highly skilled, competitive workforce. Yet, more than 60 percent of our nation's high school seniors currently read below the proficient level," said Congressman Yarmuth. "By enacting the LEARN Act, we will help close that gap and make much needed investments in the future of American students and the long-term economic growth of our nation."

Congressman Polis said, "Literacy is the foundation of a student's success in learning and in life, which is why the LEARN Act is so essential for our nation." He continued, "If America isn't investing in the basic literacy skills of children from the early years through high school, we're shortchanging these students and undermining our nation's economic future. The LEARN Act must be on the agenda in this Congress if we're to seriously address school reform this year."