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**DEVAL L. PATRICK**  
GOVERNOR

**TIMOTHY P. MURRAY**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

October 28, 2011

Secretary Arne Duncan  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Ave., S.W., LBJ Building, Room 7W311  
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I am writing to offer my support of Reach Out and Read's application for the Department of Education's Investing in Innovation and Improvement grant (i3). Reach Out and Read has been a key player in the academic and social growth of children in Priority Schools and rural states for many years. Funding from the i3 would enable the organization to serve an additional 500,000 children over three years in more than 30 of those Priority 4 Schools and 10 rural states.

We know that a child's chances of succeeding academically improve dramatically when the value of education and learning is instilled in them at a young age and that far too many children still face tremendous road blocks in their educational path. My Administration is committed to eliminating once and for all persistent and pernicious achievement gaps. Reach Out and Read's programs are an important part of our ongoing efforts and their receipt of this grant would help us ensure we continue to make progress toward achieving these critical goals.

I strongly support Reach Out and Read's application for the i3 grant. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written over a large, stylized flourish.