

# IRA Legislative Update

## April 25, 2011

To: IRA Legislative Action Team Members  
IRA State Council Leaders, and  
IRA Board of Directors

From: Richard Long, Director Government Relations,  
International Reading Association

Subject: April 28th National Call-in Day

This Thursday, April 28th the IRA is joining with the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Center on Learning Disabilities, and the National Council of Teachers of English to promote federal legislation to provide funds to state and local school districts to improve their literacy instruction by asking you to call your Senators and ask them to support the introduction of the LEARN Act.

The LEARN (Literacy for Every American, Results for the Nation) Act would provide for support for schools to improve their literacy instruction. The bill provides support for literacy instruction for grades K – 12 and for early literacy instruction for children age 0 - 5. It is comprehensive in nature and provides funds for states to develop comprehensive state literacy plans and the means to improve teacher knowledge so that that instruction may be enhanced in schools with large numbers of students living in poverty.

On, Thursday April 28th please call your United States Senator at 202-224-3121 (the Capitol Hill switch board) and ask to be connected to your senators' offices. When the aide answers the phone please:

1. Ask them to support Senator Murray's introduction of the LEARN Act (by co-sponsoring the legislation);
2. Give them information on how your state, community, or school could benefit from expanded instruction in literacy;
3. Inform them that this proposal is unique in that it is comprehensive in nature, helps more teachers to continually improve their instruction in literacy; and that
4. It will help more students to become effective learners in a cost effective manner.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the IRA Washington Office at [IRAWash@reading.org](mailto:IRAWash@reading.org)<<mailto:IRAWash@reading.org>>.

Thank you for your time and help.

Richard Long, Ed.D.  
Director of Government Relations  
International Reading Association  
202-624-8800