

# LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM

The International Reading Association's Legislative Action Team (LAT) is a national grassroots network of Association members who have volunteered to assist in the advocacy of legislation that promotes literacy and quality reading instruction.

The concept behind the Legislative Action Team is a simple one, and the actions to be carried out are basic. Members of Congress are most influenced by their constituents, and a well-timed letter or phone call from an LAT member to his or her Representative or Senators is all it takes to give the Association a voice. A commitment of less than 6 hours a year is all that is needed.

The International Reading Association Board of Directors has identified advocacy as one of the Association's strategic focuses. Education is a top agenda item in Congress and reading is on the minds of many in Washington. With the rewriting of Title I underway and an increased emphasis on reading, now is the time for reading professionals to have their voices heard by policymakers as they decide what requirements will become law.

The Association's advocacy network is made up of all areas of the association—the Board of Directors, Government Relations Committee, state and local council leaders—with its greatest strength derived from the input and effort of Association members within each state and district who comprise the Legislative Action Team. That is why it is critical to have a Legislative Action Team member in each state and congressional district across the country.

This is a crucial time for the advocacy effort with education's status as a top agenda item in Congress and reading on the minds of many in Washington. The reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the ongoing battle over funding levels for public education are but two of the major issues facing Congress. And with the ongoing rewriting of Title I and the increased emphasis on reading, now is the time for reading professionals to have their voices heard by policymakers as they decide how resources will be allocated and what requirements will be made concerning the teaching of reading and other education issues.

"All politics is local"

Tip O'Neill

Former Speaker of the House

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM

### MEMBERS

- Receive Government Relations Reports and updates from Washington
- Meet with your Representative and Senators
- Send personal letters to Members of Congress
- Make phone calls to Congress and the media
- Write letters-to-the-editor

## LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEET

Please circle one: new member/current member information update

(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number you prefer being reached at  
(circle one): HOME WORK

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX number: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Representative in U.S. House of

Representatives: \_\_\_\_\_



Please return to:

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