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**INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION CALLS FOR STRONG LITERACY
COMMITMENT IN ESEA REAUTHORIZATION BILL**

February 19, 2015 (Newark, Del.) – Given recent findings that more than half of America’s school children are poor, the International Literacy Association (formerly the International Reading Association), a global advocacy and membership organization of more than 300,000 literacy practitioners in 75 countries dedicated to advancing literacy for all, views reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as an urgent legislative priority for the 114th Congress, and advocates for the inclusion of a strong literacy commitment in the final bill.

In response to the draft reauthorization bill issued by the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee of the U.S. Senate in January, the International Literacy Association adopted a detailed framework for ESEA advocacy.

The International Literacy Association supports:

- Federal policy that provides state and school districts with the resources to ensure that every child receives a quality education regardless of economic circumstance.
- Amending the draft ESEA bill to include a dedicated funding stream for a comprehensive literacy program targeting early childhood, grades K–3 and grades 4–12.
- Increased federal funding for the professional development of classroom teachers, literacy coaches and literacy specialists.
- Reduced reliance on standardized tests and the use of broader measures of student performance.
- The formulation of federal policy capable of practical implementation.

“The International Literacy Association believes in the transformative power of literacy to create more successful societies, healthy communities and prosperous economies,” said Marcie Craig Post, Executive Director, International Literacy Association. “We stand ready to collaborate with other advocacy groups, the education policy community and government representatives to help influence the development, passage and enactment of a bill that accomplishes these goals, thereby bringing the transforming power of literacy to all of the nation’s children, especially the neediest.”

To access the full statement from the International Literacy Association on ESEA reauthorization, visit literacyworldwide.org/esea.

About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers and experts across 75 countries. With 60 years of experience in the field, ILA believes in the transformative power of literacy to create more successful societies, healthy communities and prosperous economies. ILA collaborates with partners across the

world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students and inform policymakers. The International Literacy Association publishes several peer-reviewed journals, including *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Reading Research Quarterly*. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.

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