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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2023 7:47 PM

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**Subject:** Vermont Secretary of Education and Structured Literacy

Dear State Board of Education Members,

I am writing to encourage you to appoint a Secretary of Education who understands the science of teaching reading. As a recently retired Vermont pediatrician, I know well the difficulties children face when they have problems learning to read. In my forty-year practice, I literally saw hundreds of children who were casualties of poor reading instruction. Lack of reading proficiency affects both academic performance and psychological health.

Effective reading instruction in all Vermont schools is essential and requires an educational leader who is an advocate for structured literacy instruction.

Sincerely,

David E. Stifler, M.D.  
Essex, Vermont