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STATE OF ALABAMA

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To Whom It May Concern:

As a former teacher and champion of education, I truly believe in the power of teachable moments. Every day I witness the difference a quality education can make in the life of a child. This is one of many reasons I supported the Alabama Legislature passing the Alabama Literacy Act in 2019.

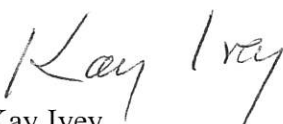
A student who is not reading on grade level by the end of the third grade is four times less likely to finish high school. With only 35 percent of our third graders in Alabama proficient in reading at grade level, it is important that we continue to work to find ways to promote literacy in all aspects of a child's life.

We must continue to improve the quality of our state's education system in order to produce a workforce that is capable of attracting new businesses and filling the kind of jobs to strengthen and grow Alabama's economy. The actions of today train our workforce of tomorrow.

I proudly support SHORT the Squirrel organization's mission of providing content-rich materials designed to entertain while also educate our youngest citizens. When children must visit courtrooms, government agencies, or hospital waiting rooms, SHORT the Squirrel materials provide opportunities to deliver and bolster literacy development.

Thank you to Dr. Dee Dupree Bennett, Monica Anderson Young, and the team of volunteers, most of whom are college students, for making a difference through the SHORT the Squirrel literacy program.

Sincerely,


Kay Ivey
Governor