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Date: December 20, 2017  
To: Members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee  
From: Randy Keys, Chief Legal Counsel  
Lonna Morouney, Legislative Liaison  
Re: 2017 Senate Bill 511

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Senator Cowles, Representative Kerkman and Members of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to provide information about Senate Bill 511. My name is Lonna Morouney and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Children and Families. I am accompanied by Randy Keys, Chief Legal Counsel for the Department.

The Read to Lead Development Fund was created to provide grants to school districts and other entities to support literacy and early childhood development programs. The 2015-17 budget bill transferred leadership responsibility of the Read to Lead Council, which oversees the grant funding, to the Department of Children and Families. Since 2016, the Department has been solely responsible for administrative and fiscal oversight of the Fund and its related annual GPR appropriation of \$23,600.

The Legislative Audit Bureau is required to complete an annual audit of the Read to Lead Development Fund. Senate Bill 511 removes the requirement that the Legislative Audit Bureau perform an annual financial audit of the Fund.

The most recent Legislative Audit Bureau audit of the Read to Lead Development Fund was released in November 2017. The report provided several financial and programmatic recommendations that are consistent with the steps the Department is already taking to improve administration of the Read to Lead program. The Department plans to keep the Joint Legislative Audit Committee informed of progress.

We are pleased to answer any questions you may have.