Sample Press Release for Public Officials Participating in:
*Sofia Valdez, Future Prez* Reading Project

[Fill in Your Name Here] read children at [Fill in Name of Local School] a story book – and taught them an important lesson about leadership.

*Sofia Valdez,* *Future Prez* tells the story of how Sofia is prompted to take action to clean up a local landfill when her loving Abuelo is hurt while they are out helping their neighbors. She decides to turn the dump into a park, but when she visits City Hall, everyone tells her she can't do anything because she's just a kid. But Sofia learns that anyone can make a difference if they have bravery and persistence.

[Insert your quote here along with any info about you such as: Senator Smith has represented the third district, including North County, for eight years. A social worker by training, she chairs the committee on human services and also sits on the transportation committee.]

Many children, asked to name a leader, think first of men — the leaders they see most often in the news, the ones celebrated with holidays and statues. As they see more women leaders, it becomes easier to envision wider possibilities — including, for girls, the chance that they could step into such roles themselves. Hearing the story of Sofia and meeting [Fill in Your Name Here] put women’s leadership in the spotlight.

*Sofia Valdez, Future Prez,* written by Andrea Beaty with illustrations by David Roberts, teaches children how to work with public institutions to solve a community problem, highlights girls in public leadership, and teaches elementary-age children the value of courage and civic engagement.

The book, published by Abrams Books, was made available to women lawmakers across the country – in Congress, statewide elected offices, and state legislatures – by Teach a Girl to Lead®, a program of the non-partisan Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), a unit of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. Support for distributing the book comes from the Hess Foundation, **The Honorable Constance Hess Williams, and Comcast NBCUniversal**. After reading the story to children, the lawmakers will donate their copies to school libraries.

CAWP created Teach a Girl to Lead® to inspire girls and young women to follow in the footsteps of women leaders, past and present. Making women’s political leadership visible to America’s youth will help both boys and girls grow up with more inclusive ideas about who can lead.