

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW:** State (not federal)
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** staff, students, volunteers
3. **TIMELINE:** Immediate

ABE LINE ITEM #7035-0002 TO BE DEBATED IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

- The budget approved by the House funded the ABE line item at **\$28,085,646**.
- The budget approved by the Senate funded the ABE line item at **\$28,085,096**.
- **Even though the difference between the two amounts is only \$550, the ABE line item must now be negotiated by the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee because the House and Senate amounts are not the same. The Committee is not bound by either amount and can negotiate a totally different funding level, which could result in a cut to the ABE line item in any amount in this difficult budget environment.**

IMMEDIATE CALLS TO YOUR LEGISLATOR:

- Please make immediate calls to your representative and senator at the State House and urge them to call the members of the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee to urge the Committee to fund the ABE line item at the House budget amount of \$28,085,646.
- Even if your legislator is a member of the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee (Senators Panagiotakos, Brewer and Knapik; Representatives Murphy, L'Italien and deMacedo), please call them.
- These calls will be very brief. Speak with either the representative/senator or an aide.

BRIEF SCRIPT:

- My name is ___ and I live in your district. (If you are a registered voter, please say so as the opinions of voters carry more weight.)
- I'm calling to ask you to urge your colleagues on the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee to fund ABE line item #7035-0002 at the House budget amount of \$28,085,646.
- I appreciate the legislator's support for ABE in this difficult budget situation. ABE is an investment in the state's workforce and in the economy and people need basic skills now more than ever.
- Thank you for your support.

REPORT BACK:

- After you've made your calls, please report back to your Program Point Person at your program who will then report to MCAE.
- If you don't know who your Program Point Person is, please contact Jennifer McAllister, Public Policy Field Organizer at MCAE (jmcallister@mcae.net).

QUESTIONS:

- If you have questions about this alert, please contact either Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu or 617-287-4071) or Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com or 617-367-1313).