

**ALERT SUMMARY:**

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

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**MORE BUDGET CALLS NEEDED FOR ABE:**

- The Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee is still debating items of importance **to the ABE community: the ABE line item, the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund** (a public/private funded job training program which provides job training for workers to fill vacant jobs), the **Workforce Training Fund** (an employer-funded training fund, which will also provide funding for the dedicated workplace education fund proposed by the ABE/ESOL Sub-Committee of the State Workforce Investment Board) and the **Citizenship for New Americans Program** (a program that provides ESOL classes to low-income immigrants who wish to become naturalized U.S. citizens).
- According to the reports received by MCAE as of 6/12/09, ABE programs have:
  - \* Contacted 37 of 200 legislators regarding the ABE line item; and
  - \* Generated 68 telephone calls and 126 letters to legislators regarding the ABE line item.
- If you haven't made calls to your state representative and state senator yet, there's still time. These calls are extremely important to prevent a reduction in ABE funding in fiscal year 2010, and to support workforce training and citizenship funding, which also have an impact on ABE students.

**IMMEDIATE CALLS TO YOUR STATE REP AND STATE SENATOR:**

- If you haven't already done so, please make immediate calls to your state representative and state senator to urge them to call the members of the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee and urge the Committee to support funding for these line items.
- Please remember to thank your legislator, especially if he or she has been supportive of ABE and ABE issues in the past.
- 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.

**BRIEF SCRIPT:**

- My name is \_\_\_ and I live in your district. (If you are a registered voter, please say so as the opinions of constituent voters carry more weight.)
- I support adult basic education as a vital investment in the state's workforce and economy.
- Please urge your colleagues on the Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee to support these ABE, workforce and citizenship programs:
  - \* fund the **ABE line item** at the House budget amount of \$28,085,646;
  - \* restore the employer-funded **Workforce Training Fund** at the House budget amount of \$21 million;
  - \* strike section 74 of the Senate budget, which would eliminate the **Workforce Competitive Trust Fund** (public-privately funded job training programs); and
  - \* fund the **Citizenship for New Americans Program** at the House budget amount of \$500,000.
- Thank you for your support in this difficult budget situation. ABE and job training are an investment in the state's workforce and in the economy. People need basic skills and job training now more than ever.

**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](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net)).
- We've heard from programs that they appreciate the feedback on how many calls/letters their efforts have generated. We cannot provide this information unless we hear back from you. Please help us keep everyone informed.

**QUESTIONS:**

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

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO MAKE THESE CALLS!**