

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW:** State (not federal)
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Staff, adult learners, volunteers
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** State representatives and state senators
4. **TIMEFRAME:** Immediate, especially to state representatives who are drafting their FY2010 list of budget priorities

FY2010 BUDGET PROCESS BEGINS WITH GOVERNOR'S RELEASE OF HOUSE 1:

- Governor Patrick released House 1, the administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2010 (7/1/09-6/30/10). The budget is non-binding and gives the legislature and the public an indication of the Governor's spending priorities.
- The Governor's budget funds the ABE line item #7035-0002 at \$29,223,195.
- Based on information taken from the Governor's online budget documents, this funding level represents the ABE line item amount after the first round of 9C cuts in the fall (\$30,183,582) minus \$960,387 transferred to a line item for Education Information Technology Costs (line item #7009-1700) to consolidate information technology costs under the Secretary of Education.
- We are checking with DESE to determine the exact impact of this transfer of funds and will advise further when we have more information.
- To view the Governor's budget documents, go to <http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=mg2homepage&L=1&L0=Home&sid=massgov2>.

IMMEDIATE CALLS NEEDED TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND STATE SENATORS RE FY2010 ABE BUDGET:

- Although the budget action now moves to the House first, both state representatives and state senators are reviewing the Governor's budget and drafting their FY2010 budget priorities (their "wish list") to give to House and Senate Ways and Means.
- All advocates are communicating their budget requests to the House and Senate now, and we must do so also or risk not being heard.
- Please make 2 calls: one to your state representative and one to your state senator. It will take less than 5 minutes to make a call. If everyone makes their calls, we could generate thousands of calls and have a real impact.
- Speak with an aide if you cannot speak with the representative or senator directly, and ask for the aide's name for future reference.

SCRIPT TO USE:

1. Give your name.
2. Say you live in the representative/senator's district. If you are registered to vote, say you are a registered voter in the district.

3. Urge the representative/senator to provide \$30.1 million for ABE line item #7035-0002 (represents level funding before FY2009 cuts under Article 9C).

4. If you have time, say why adult basic education is especially important now:

* People without jobs need ABE services even more now so they can be ready for jobs that emerge as a result of the Economic Stimulus Package and other initiatives.

* Unemployed adults who need ABE services are eager and ready to learn, and have the time now especially while they are not working.

* Helping adults to improve their basic skills rapidly will help them, individual businesses and the nation's economy all increase productivity. ABE is an important investment in any economic stimulus plan.

5. If you are a student, say how adult basic education is helping you to achieve your goals.

6. Thank the aide for his/her time.

7. Report back!

REPORT BACK:

- Please report back directly to your Program Point Person. If you don't know who your Program Point Person is or you don't have one, please report back to Jennifer McAllister at MCAE (jmcallister@mcae.net).

- Report the following information to your Program Point Person for each individual call you made:

* Whom you called and his/her response.

* Rate the response from each call separately using this scale:

1 = made a definite commitment to support the specific request (not just general ABE support);

2 = favorable toward your request, but no definite commitment;

3 = neutral toward your request;

4 = opposed or negative to the request; definitely will not support it.

- **Please do not aggregate your calls and ratings as it makes it impossible for MCAE to keep track of our legislative supporters and report information back to you.**

MORE INFORMATION:

- If you don't know who your state representative or senator is, either call the State House switchboard (617-722-2000) or go to www.wheredoivotema.com.

- For questions on this alert, contact Roberta Soolman (litolma@aol.com or 617-367-1313) or Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu or 617-287-4071).

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO MAKE THESE IMPORTANT CALLS!