

**Alert #11-09: Calls re ABE Budget Amendments**

**April 21, 2009**

Please send all responses and questions to [litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com) or [steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu). Thanks!

**ALERT SUMMARY:**

1. **PURVIEW: State (not federal)**
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION: Everyone, including students**
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED: State representative (not state senator)**

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**CALLS TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES RE ABE BUDGET AMENDMENTS**

- The House Ways and Means budget funded the ABE line item #7035-0002 at \$28,085,646. This amount is \$3 million (10%) less than the original FY09 initial appropriation and \$1.9 million (6%) less than the current FY09 budget amount after Governor Patrick's 9-C budget cuts in September and January.

- **Rep. Smizik (Brookline) filed amendment #741 to increase funding for the ABE line item to \$30.1 million. Co-sponsors include:**

- Rep. Allen (Boston)
- Rep. Lantigua (Lawrence)
- Rep. Provost (Somerville)
- Rep. Sanchez (Boston)
- Rep. Sciortino (Medford) and
- Rep. Toomey (Cambridge).

- **Rep. Campbell (Methuen) filed amendment #978 to increase funding for the ABE line item to \$29.2 million (amount corrected from alert sent 4/17/09). Co-sponsors include:**

- Rep. Aguiar (Fall River)
- Rep. Allen (Boston)
- Rep. Canavan (Brockton)
- Rep. Sannicandro (Ashland)
- Rep. Scibak (South Hadley)
- Rep. Smola (Palmer)
- Rep. Toomey (Cambridge)
- Rep. Walsh (Boston)

- Given the number of amendments that have been filed (a total of 968) and the current difficult fiscal situation, **MCAE is supporting both amendments** to hopefully increase the possibility of at least one of the amendments reaching the floor for a vote and to demonstrate strong support for increasing ABE funding prior to the budget debate.

**BUDGET TIMELINE:**

**Time to make calls: **immediately****

**Deadline for signing on to amendments:** Friday, April 24 at 5 p.m.

**Budget debate begins:** Monday, April 27

**SCRIPT TO USE:**

- Speak with either the representative or an aide.
- My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I live in the district. (If you are a registered voter, say that you are.)
- I'm calling to urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor to both the Smizik amendment (#741) and the Campbell amendment (#978) to increase funding for the ABE line item #7035-0002.
- I recognize the difficult budget situation due to the economy, but adult basic education is an investment in the state's workforce and in the economy. People need basic skills now more than ever.
- Say why adult basic education is personally important to you.
- Thank you the representative or aide. (Please note: Because representatives will be continuously signing on to amendments, if your representative has already signed on by the time you make your call, please thank him/her for his/her 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 ([jmcallister@mcae.net](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net)) at MCAE.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- Please watch for another email to come shortly regarding other important related budget issues.
- If you don't know who your state representative is, either call the State House switchboard (617-722-2000) or go to [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com).

### **QUESTIONS:**

- If you have questions about this alert, please contact Roberta Soolman ([litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com); 617-367-1313).