

**THIS LIST IS FOR MCAE PUBLIC POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLY
ALL REPLIES TO THE LIST ARE DISCARDED**

Please send all responses and questions to charlie@mcae.net. Thanks!

SENATE PROPOSES LEVEL FUNDING FOR ABE

- The Senate Ways and Means Committee released the Senate Budget proposal for FY2005.
- The Senate budget proposes **level funding for ABE line item #7035-0002 at \$27.8 million, the same amount approved by the full House of Representatives when it passed the House budget on April 30th.**
- The Senate will begin debating the budget next week.
- Because the House approved \$27.8 million for the ABE line item and the Senate Ways and Means Committee is proposing the same amount of \$27.8 million, it is unlikely that this line item will be discussed by the Conference Committee since the Conference Committee usually only discusses those items that are different in the House and Senate budgets and must be compromised.
- Since the Governor also proposed \$27.8 million for the ABE line item in his budget proposal released in January (House 1), it is unlikely that he will veto the \$27.8 million if it is approved by the legislature.
- We will review any Senate budget amendments after they are filed at the end of this week to make sure there are no amendments that adversely affect the ABE line item.

THANK YOU'S TO REPS:

- It is important for everyone to please remember to thank your representative(s) for his/her support especially if your representative made ABE a priority in a budget request to the House leadership or made a firm commitment to supporting level funding.
- If you aren't sure of your representative's level of support, please thank him/her anyway. Everyone likes to be thanked for something, and it might be enough to make your representative look more favorably on ABE.

THANK YOU'S TO SENATORS:

- Please thank your senator if he/she made ABE a budget priority in requests to the Senate leadership or your senator made a firm commitment to supporting level funding.
- Once the Senate budget is passed with level funding for ABE, we will send an alert to ask everyone to make sure to thank their Senator so that all Senators are thanked.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR CALLS AND HELP!

- As always, you are what makes our successful advocacy possible. Thank you for taking the time to contact your legislators and urge others to do the same.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- For more information, please contact Charlie Houghton (1.800.339.2498 or charlie@mcae.net).

TO REFERENCE EARLIER ALERTS:

- Go to <http://mcae.net/pages/legislative/legalert.html>.