

[MCAE] Alert #01-06: Immediate Action on Economic Stimulus Bill Tomorrow - 10/6/05

***HOUSE VOTES ON ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL TOMORROW, OCT. 6TH:**

- The MA House is scheduled to vote on the current version of the Economic Stimulus Bill (H4404) tomorrow (Thursday, October 6th).
- The deadline for signing onto amendments is around noon tomorrow.
- The vote is expected to be in the afternoon with debate beginning at around 1:30 p.m.

***IMMEDIATE CALLS TO MAKE TODAY AND TOMORROW BEFORE NOON:**

- **We realize that the turnaround time for action is very short, but the legislative timeline is out of MCAE's control: the deadline for filing amendments was 5 p.m. yesterday, and the 142 amendments were only made available to review late this morning.**

- **Please do whatever you and your program can do between now and tomorrow noon. Anything you can do is important and appreciated.**

- A separate alert will be sent with a simplified message in English for students. However, we are unable to provide this alert in languages other than English.

***CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE WITH THE FOLLOWING SHORT MESSAGE:**

- Give your name and address.
- Say you are a constituent and a registered voter (if you are not registered and are eligible, please register).
- Say you are calling to urge him/her to vote in favor of House 4404 and to sign on to Rep. Wolf's Amendment #9 to increase the ABE line item #7035-0002 to \$35.3 million.
- If you have time on your telephone call, state why ABE is important to you (e.g., the services it provides to your community, the number of people served and the number on the waiting list).
- Thank your representative or the aide.

***THANK YOU AND PLEASE REPORT BACK:**

- As always, it's important for us to know what calls were made and where we have strong support. Please report your calls and any feedback you receive to your regional coordinators.

- Boston: Mary Mello (mello@bostonabcd.org)
- Central: Cathy Gannon (cgannon@qcc.mass.edu)
- Northeast: Don Edwards (edwardsdon@mindspring.com)
- Southeast: Suzanne Martin (suzannemartin@brocktonpublicschools.com)
- West: George Kohout (gkohout@hcc.mass.edu)

***QUESTIONS:**

- Contact Roberta Soolman, MCAE Public Policy Co-Chair at 888.466.1313 or litvolma@aol.com.

***THANK YOU FOR MAKING CALLS!**

***ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON H4404 PROVISIONS FOR ABE:**

- The bill has gone through several revisions. The most recent version (H4404) was drafted by the House Ways and Means Committee where the bill was referred because it includes budgetary appropriations.

- The bill adds \$3 million to ABE line item #7035-0002 under the MA Dept. of Education, not the \$6.5 million originally in the legislation.

- However, Rep. Alice Wolf of Cambridge has filed Amendment #9 to increase the funding in the ABE line item to \$35.3 million -- an increase of \$6 million over the current FY2006 appropriation.

- The bill also adds MCAE and the ABE Directors' Council to the Workforce Accountability Task Force included in the legislation as requested by MCAE during hearing testimony.