

MCAE'S FY2007 BUDGET REQUEST FOR ABE LINE ITEM #7035-0002:

- MCAE is requesting a total of **\$37.3 million** for **ABE line item #7035-0002** in the state's FY2007 budget (7/1/06 to 6/30/07).
- This amount represents an **\$8 million increase over FY2006** funding of \$29.3 million and is consistent with the increases that MCAE has requested in previous years.
- Because the \$3 million for ABE included in the Economic Stimulus Package is still in conference committee and won't be taken up by the committee until the health care legislation is resolved, we do not know what impact the Economic Stimulus Package will have, if any, on the FY2007 budget process. We will continue to monitor that legislation and keep you informed.

IMMEDIATE CALLS TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES RE ABE BUDGET REQUEST:

- The deadline for all state representatives to submit their FY2007 budget priorities to the leadership is **Tuesday, February 14, 2006**. They are preparing their lists **now**.
- Please call your state representatives **immediately** using the following easy script. We are **not** calling state senators at this time because their budget process begins later in the spring.

MESSAGE:

- Give your **name and address**.
- Say you are a **constituent and a registered voter** (if you are eligible to register and are not registered, please consider doing so).
- **If you know that your representative has actively supported ABE funding in the past** (e.g., included ABE on his/her list of budget priorities, voted for increases or introduced budget amendments for increases), **be sure to thank him/her for past support**.
- Say you are calling to ask him/her to include **\$37.3 million for ABE line item #7035-0002** (an \$8 million increase over FY2006 funding) **on his/her list of FY2007 budget priorities due on February 14**.
- If you have the opportunity, **briefly say why ABE is important to you and your community**.
- **Ask if he/she will include this request** on his/her list of FY2007 budget priorities.
- **Thank** your representative or the aide.

THANK YOU AND PLEASE REPORT BACK:

- It is important for us to know which representatives were called and the level of commitment you receive.
- Please let us know which representative you called and if:
 - * he/she made a **definite commitment** to include MCAE's ABE request on his/her list of budget priorities; or
 - * he/she **will consider it** and get back to you; or
 - * he/she **said no.**
- Please report this information to your regional coordinators or program point person who can then report to the regional coordinators.

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)

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- If you are not sure who your state representative is, either call the State House switchboard (617.722.2000) or go to <http://www.mcae.net/pages/legislative/legmain.html> and follow the instructions.
- Contact Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu) or Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com) if you have questions.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THESE IMPORTANT CALLS!