

MCAE Alert #13-06: House Budget Amendment Filed for ABE

ALERT SUMMARY:

- **PURVIEW:** State (not federal)
- **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Asking program staff to make calls.
- **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** Representatives who signed on to budget amendment for ABE (see list below).
- **TIMEFRAME:** Thank you calls to representatives on the list should be made before April 24 when budget debate begins.

PROPOSED HOUSE BUDGET LEVEL FUNDS ABE FOR FY 2007

- On April 10, the House Ways and Means Committee released its proposed budget for FY2007 (7/1/06 - 6/30/07).
- The budget contained \$29.3 million for ABE line item #7035-0002, which is the same level of funding that we have now in FY2006.
- MCAE proposed an \$8 million increase for a total of \$37.3 million.

AMENDMENT FILED TO INCREASE LINE ITEM TO \$37.3 MILLION

- Representative Denise Provost (Somerville) filed an amendment to increase the ABE line item to \$37.3 million.
- As of the latest information provided by Rep. Provost's office, the following representatives also signed on as co-sponsors:
 - * Rep. Denise Provost (Somerville)
 - * Rep. Ellen Story (Amherst)
 - * Rep. Tim Toomey (Cambridge)
 - * Rep. Kay Khan (Newton)
 - * Rep. Peter Kocot (Northampton)
 - * Rep. Robert Koczera (New Bedford)
 - * Rep. Douglas Petersen (Marblehead)
 - * Rep. Tom Sannicandro (Ashland)

- If your representative is on this list, please call or email to thank him/her for support and leadership on this issue. Be sure to say that an increase in ABE is very important to you.

- Please note that Representative Bosley, a long-time literacy supporter and champion of ABE, was unable to sign on as a co-sponsor because of his position as Chair of the House Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies that is working on passage of the Economic Stimulus Bill, which contains a funding increase for ABE.

ONCE THE AMENDMENTS ARE PROCESSED AND NUMBERED:

- After the House Clerk's office compiles and numbers all the amendments, all representatives will have the opportunity to sign on in support.

- At that time, we will send another alert with the amendment's number and further information about urging your representative to sign on if he/she is not on the co-sponsor list noted above.

QUESTIONS:

- 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.

- If you have any questions, please contact Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com or 617.367.1313) or Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu or 617.287.4071).

THANK YOU!