

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HOUSE AND SENATE  
ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILLS:

- Because both the House and Senate passed their own versions of an economic stimulus bill, which are not identical, a House/Senate Conference Committee will reconcile the differences so one bill can be brought before the full legislature for a vote.

- Both bills included an additional \$3 million for the ABE line item #7035-0002 under the MA Department of Education for a total FY2006 appropriation for the ABE line item of \$32.3 million.

- Because both the House and Senate bills have the identical amount for ABE, it is unlikely that the Conference Committee will deal with the ABE line item since there is no money amount to be reconciled.

CALLS RE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROVISIONS:

- The House bill provided more support for workforce development by establishing a Workforce Competitive Trust Fund and the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund.

- Workforce Competitive Trust Fund: \$11 million for a Workforce Competitive Trust Fund that would be used to train 10,000 workers to fill job vacancies in industries of critical consequence to the state. If this provision is not included in the final bill, there will be no funds for job training in the entire \$350-\$450 million bill.

- Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund: \$3 million that would allow more than 2,000 working adults to take part-time classes in accredited postsecondary certificate, vocational technology programs or associate degree programs in targeted high-demand occupations. Currently, part-time state and community college students are not eligible for state or federal financial aid, including loans.

PLEASE CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR AND USE 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 about the Economic Stimulus bill that will be negotiated soon by the Conference Committee.

- Say you are calling to urge him/her to contact the Senate members of the Conference Committee and Senate President Travaglini and urge them to include \$11 million for the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund and \$3 million for the Educational Rewards Grant Program Fund as outlined in the House version of the Economic Stimulus Bill.

- Thank your senator or the aide.

PLEASE MAKE THE CALLS THIS WEEK:

- The House has appointed Representatives Bosley, DeLeo and Hill to the Conference Committee. While the Senate hasn't appointed their conferees as of yesterday, Senate action on this legislation in the past has been on a very quick timeline.

- Please try to make the calls this week as it will be more difficult to organize calls during the week of Thanksgiving. Calls by program staff should be sufficient. We are not asking for a full mobilization of students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- If you are not sure who your state senator 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.

- To view past alerts on the Economic Stimulus Bill, go to [www.mcae.net](http://www.mcae.net) and click on Legislative.

THANK YOU AND PLEASE REPORT BACK:

- Please report the following information to your regional coordinators or program point person who can then report to the regional coordinators:

\* number of calls made and to whom (Example: 6 calls made to Senator Smith);

\* if your senator/senator's aide made an affirmative commitment to call the Senate conferees (Example: Senator Smith's aide told 2 callers that the Senator would make the calls to conferees); and

\* any other feedback you receive.

- Regional Coordinators:

\* Boston: Mary Mello ([mello@bostonabcd.org](mailto:mello@bostonabcd.org))

\* Central: Cathy Gannon ([cgannon@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:cgannon@gcc.mass.edu))

\* Northeast: Don Edwards ([edwardsdon@mindspring.com](mailto:edwardsdon@mindspring.com))

\* Southeast: Suzanne Martin ([suzannemartin@brocktonpublicschools.com](mailto:suzannemartin@brocktonpublicschools.com))

\* West: George Kohout ([gkohout@hcc.mass.edu](mailto:gkohout@hcc.mass.edu))

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THESE IMPORTANT CALLS IN SUPPORT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT!