

Alert #07-07: Immediate Action on Important Budget Update April 19, 2007

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW: State**
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION: Staff, adult learners, volunteers**
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED: State representatives only (not senators)**
4. **TIMEFRAME: Immediate**

UPDATE ON HOUSE BUDGET AMENDMENTS FILED FOR ABE LINE ITEM #7035-0002:

- By the April 13 deadline at 5 p.m., 1407 budget amendments had been filed, including 4 amendments for the ABE line item.
 - Reps. Bosley, Koczera, Patrick and Provost all filed separate amendments for the ABE line item. The amounts proposed by each amendment is different.
 - The support that has been shown by Reps. Bosley, Koczera, Patrick and Provost and the other representatives who have signed on to their amendments has been a strong demonstration of their commitment to ABE. It is also a strong demonstration of the importance and effectiveness of your advocacy work.
 - However, due to the large number of amendments filed, most amendments will **not** reach the floor for a vote.
 - Because there is no guarantee which ABE amendment will reach the floor for a vote, if any, it is important to demonstrate as much support as possible for **an increase in funding for the ABE line item #7035-0002**.

IMMEDIATE ACTION – REVISED:

- The budget situation is constantly changing. Alert #06-07 (Action Needed on House Budget Amendments for ABE) was sent mid-afternoon on Friday, April 13 in order to get important information out before the school vacation break. At that time, we knew 2 amendments had been filed and asked you to urge your representative to sign on to both.
- However, now that there are 4 amendments filed, MCAE has re-considered its strategy. Rather than ask representatives to sign on to multiple amendments, MCAE has decided to support one amendment in the hope that we can focus our efforts on getting more representatives to sign on in support of an ABE increase if we are asking them to only sign one amendment.
 - After careful consideration of all factors, and in grateful appreciation to Reps. Koczera, Patrick and Provost and all those representatives who have already signed on to one of the amendments, **we are urging representatives to sign on to Rep. Bosley's amendment (#1401)**.

CALL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY TO URGE HIM/HER TO SIGN ON:

- **Please contact your representative and ask him/her to sign on to the Bosley amendment (#1401) for ABE line item #7035-0002.**

- **Please also ask your representative to make 2 calls of support:**

* Call House Ways and Means Chairman DeLeo to ask him to support an ABE funding increase and urge House Speaker DiMasi to make sure the Bosley amendment reaches the floor for a vote.

* Call House Speaker DiMasi to ask him to support an ABE funding increase and make sure the Bosley amendment reaches the floor a vote..

- **When you call, you can speak to either the representative or his/her aide, or leave a message.**

SCRIPT TO USE:

- My name is _____ and I'm a registered voter in Representative ____'s district. (If you are not registered and are eligible, please register to vote since your opinion carries more weight as a registered voter).

- I'm calling to urge you to sign on to both the Bosley amendment (#1401) to increase funding for the ABE line item #7035-0002.

- I'm also calling to ask you to please urge Chairman DeLeo to support an ABE funding increase and ask Speaker DiMasi to make sure the Bosley amendment reaches the floor for a vote.

- Adult basic education is important to me because _____.

- Do you know if Representative ____ plans to sign on? If you don't know yet, when could I call back to see what he/she has decided to do?

- Thank you very much for your time.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Also, because representatives will be continuously signing on to amendments, if your representative has already signed on by the time you make your call, please thank him/her for his/her support and still ask them to call Speaker DiMasi and Chairman DeLeo.

BUDGET TIMELINE:

Time to make calls: immediately

Deadline for signing on to amendments: Friday, April 20 at 5 p.m.

Budget debate begins: Monday, April 23

REPORT BACK:

- If you receive a definite commitment from your representative that he/she will sign on to either or both of the amendments, please report back to your Program Point Person who will then report to the MCAE Regional Coordinator.

- If you do not know who your Program Point Person is or you don't have one, please report back directly to the MCAE Regional Coordinator.

- As always, it is vital that we have this information in order to know where our support is and can plan strategy.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS:

Boston: Robert Hibbard (robert_hibbard@ccab.org)

Central: Cathy Gannon (cgannon@qcc.mass.edu)

Northeast: Don Edwards (edwardsdon@verizon.net)

Southeast: Suzanne Martin (suzannemartin@brocktonpublicschools.com)

West: George Kohout (gkohout@hcc.mass.edu)

QUESTIONS:

- If you are not sure who your state representative is, either call the State House switchboard (617.722.2000) or go to www.wheredoivotema.com.

- For questions, contact Roberta Soolman (litvolma@aol.com or 617.367.1313) or Steve Reuys (steve.reuys@umb.edu or 617.287.4071).

THANK YOU!

- Your help is very important to ensure vital ABE services for our students. Thank you!