

**MOVING ABE TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

- Suzanne Bump, Director of Workforce Development for the Department of Labor, has publicly disparaged the quality and effectiveness of ABE programs and is pushing to move ABE from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD).
- MCAE has been in touch with key legislative supporters who are working on our behalf to stop such a move. At the moment, we have been asked to delay mobilizing the membership until they have had a chance to speak directly with Director Bump.
- MCAE has drafted an alert to be sent to everyone as soon as we hear from key legislative supporters that we should move ahead. We have impressed upon them that the situation is urgent, especially because many programs, including large LEA programs, will begin closing for the summer within a few short weeks.
- We will keep you informed as we get more information. Please watch your email carefully for an alert within the next 2-5 days.

**SENATE BUDGET INCLUDES \$28.1 MILLION FOR ABE FOR FY 2008**

- The Senate Ways and Means Committee just released its proposed budget for FY2008. It includes an appropriation for the ABE line item #7035-0002 in the amount of \$28.1 million, which is less than the amount appropriated by the House (\$28.8 million) and a lot less than the FY07 appropriation of \$32.5 million (\$29.5 million plus \$3 million in Economic Stimulus funds).
- We have asked a senator to file an amendment on our behalf and will let you know once it has been filed and has been assigned a number so that you can mobilize your program to make calls to support it.
- **To eliminate confusion, it is important that we only have 1 ABE amendment filed. If your senator plans to file an amendment, please let MCAE know immediately so we can coordinate efforts.**
- Again, please watch your email in the next 2-3 days for more information on the amendment.

**QUESTIONS**

- If you have any questions about this alert, please contact Roberta Soolman ([litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com) or 617.367.1313) or Steve Reuys ([steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu) or 617.287.4071). Thank you.