

**ALERT SUMMARY:**

1. **PURVIEW:** State
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Thank you calls by staff, adult learners, volunteers
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** State senators (not representatives)
4. **TIMEFRAME:** within the next week

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**SENATE PASSED BUDGET WITH \$30.1 MILLION FOR ABE LINE ITEM:**

- Last night, the Senate passed its FY2008 budget, which included \$30.1 million for ABE line item #7035-0002.
- The Senate budget originally included \$28.1 million for ABE. However, Senator Baddour filed an amendment to increase the amount to \$32.5 million. During deliberations, he re-drafted the amendment for \$30.1 million, which passed the Senate by a vote of 38-0.
- Since the amounts for ABE in the FY2008 House budget (\$28.8 million) and the FY 2008 Senate budget (\$30.1 million) do not agree, the amounts will be reconciled during the Ways and Means Conference Committee deliberations, which will begin soon. Another alert regarding next steps will be sent as soon as more information becomes available.

**YOUR CALLS MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**

- According to reports we received from MCAE Regional Coordinators, your actions generated at least 679 calls to Senators in support of the Baddour amendment.
- Congratulations to the northeast region (Lowell ABE, Methuen Adult Learning Center and Operation Bootstrap) for making the most calls.
- Your calls made ABE an important and visible issue, and generated the support and votes necessary to obtain the funding increase.
- Thank you for everything that you did in support of ABE funding!

**NOW IT'S TIME TO THANK YOUR SENATORS:**

- The hallmark of MCAE's advocacy often commented on by the legislators is that we are respectful and that we say thank you.
- When you get back from the long weekend, please take the time to call or email your senator (or his/her aide) to thank the senator for supporting the increase in funding for ABE.
- Please also remember to thank the other senators who supported the increased funding:
  - \* Baddour of Methuen (the amendment's original sponsor who advocated on behalf of the increase during the budget debate)
  - \* Wilkerson of Boston (a co-sponsor when the amendment was filed)
  - \* Murray of Plymouth (the Senate President)

- \* Panagiotakos of Lowell (Chairman of Senate Ways and Means who spoke on behalf of the increase during the senate budget debate)
- \* Candaras of Wilbraham (amendment sponsor)
- \* Creem of Newton (amendment sponsor)
- \* Knapik of Westfield (amendment sponsor who spoke on behalf of the increase during the senate budget debate)
- \* Tucker of Andover (amendment sponsor)
- \* Walsh of Boston (amendment sponsor)

**QUESTIONS:**

- For your senator's number, call the State House Switchboard (617.722.2000) or go to [www.mass.gov/legis](http://www.mass.gov/legis) and click on the Senate under Legislators.
- For questions about this alert, contact Roberta Soolman ([litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com)) or Steve Reuys ([steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu)).

**THANK YOU!**