

**ALERT SUMMARY:**

1. **PURVIEW:** State (not federal)
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Staff, adult learners, volunteers
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** Your representative, your senator and the legislative leadership
4. **GOAL:** For each person to make 6 telephone calls and report back either to local Program Point Person or Regional Coordinator
5. **TIMEFRAME:** Immediate action (June 1 to June 8). Timeline will be updated as needed.

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**FY 2008 BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CREATED**

- The FY2008 budget passed by the House included \$28.1 million for ABE line item #7035-0002. The Senate budget included \$30.1 million for ABE.
- The Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee will soon begin debate on the FY2008 budget to reconcile any differences, including the two different appropriations for the ABE line item.
- The Conference Committee consists of 3 members of the House, 3 members of the Senate, the House Speaker and the Senate President. See the list at the end of this alert.
- Your calls were essential in obtaining the Senate increase, and they are essential in keeping that increase when the Conference Committee debate begins.
- We are asking you to make 6 calls: 4 calls to the legislative leadership, and then calls to your own state representative and state senator.

**SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:**

1. **When you call, say why ABE is important to you:**
2. **Students:** talk about the important goals they have achieved and the important ways in which the ABE program has helped them and their families. Legislators are moved by personal stories.
3. **Volunteers:** talk about why they choose to donate their valuable time to an ABE program to help another adult learn to read, write, speak English, obtain a GED or get a job.
4. **Staff:** talk about how important ABE is to the students, their families and the local community; the goals the students achieve; how the Massachusetts economy needs an educated workforce; and the relationship between a parent's literacy level and the success of the child in school.

**IMMEDIATE CALLS TO MAKE TO LEADERSHIP**

**1. Call the legislative leadership** (Senate President Murray, Speaker DiMasi, House Ways and Means Chair DeLeo, Senate Ways and Means Chair Panagiotakos) to **urge them to agree on the Senate amount of \$30.1 million for the ABE line item #7035-0002.**

**2. Script to use when you call the leadership:**

- My name is \_\_\_ and I'm a registered voter. (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 support the \$30.1 million in the Senate budget for the ABE line item #7035-0002.
- ABE is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you for your support of ABE.

**IMMEDIATE CALLS TO MAKE TO YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND STATE SENATOR**

**1. Call your state representative and state senator to urge them to urge the Conference Committee to agree on the Senate appropriation of \$30.1 million for the ABE line item #7035-0002.**

**2. Script to use when you call your representative and senator:**

- My name is \_\_\_ and I'm a registered voter. (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 urge the Conference Committee to agree on the Senate appropriation of \$30.1 million in the Senate budget for the ABE line item #7035-0002.
- ABE is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you for your support of ABE.

**IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR YOU TO REPORT BACK AFTER YOU'VE MADE YOUR CALLS:**

- We must know how many calls were made and to whom, and their response. We are keeping track of totals and will report them back to you in a future alert, as we did in Alert #13 regarding the Senate budget.
- After you've made your calls, please tell your Program Point Person the name of each legislator you called and the response you received from each legislator. Your Program Point Person will provide a summary of your program's calls to the MCAE Regional Coordinator:

**TO REPORT BACK TO REGIONAL COORDINATORS, PLEASE EMAIL:**

Boston: Robert Hibbard ([robert\\_hibbard@ccab.org](mailto:robert_hibbard@ccab.org))  
Central: Cathy Gannon ([cgannon@qcc.mass.edu](mailto:cgannon@qcc.mass.edu))  
Northeast: Don Edwards ([edwardsdon@verizon.net](mailto:edwardsdon@verizon.net))  
Southeast: Suzanne Martin ([suzannemartin@brocktonpublicschools.com](mailto:suzannemartin@brocktonpublicschools.com))  
West: George Kohout ([gkohout@hcc.mass.edu](mailto:gkohout@hcc.mass.edu))

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE PHONE NUMBERS:**

**Leadership:**

Senate President Murray: 617-722-1500

House Speaker DiMasi: 617-722-2500  
Senate Ways and Means Chairman Panagiatkos: 617-722-1630  
House Ways and Means Chairman DeLeo: 617-722-2990

**Other Conference Committee Members:**

Senator Tolman: 617-722-1280  
Senator Knapik: 617-722-1415  
Rep. St. Fleur: 617-722-2380  
Rep. deMacedo: 617-722-2100

**IF YOU'RE NOT SURE WHO YOUR LEGISLATORS ARE:**

- If you're not sure who your senator or representative is, go to [www.wheredolvotema.com](http://www.wheredolvotema.com).
- For telephone numbers, call the State House switchboard (617.722.2000) or go to [www.mass.gov/legis](http://www.mass.gov/legis) and click on either House or Senate under Legislators.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ALERT:**

- For questions about this alert, contact either Roberta Soolman ([litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com)) or Steve Reuys ([steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu)).

**THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND FOR TAKING THE TIME TO MAKE THESE CALLS!**