

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW: State (not federal)**
2. **MOBILIZATION: Thank you's to legislators**

FY2008 BUDGET APPROVED

- Yesterday, the legislature unanimously approved the FY2008 Joint Ways and Means Conference Committee budget and sent it to Governor Patrick for his review and signature.

- The budget provides **\$30.1 million for ABE line item #7035-0002**, which was the higher figure proposed by the Senate budget.

- While the FY06 funding level was \$32.5, which included a one-time \$3 million appropriation under the Economic Stimulus Bill, ABE did well in the FY08 budget.

- Together, we were able to increase the final allocation from the original \$27.1 million proposed by the House to \$28.1 million in the final House budget to \$30.1 million in the final Senate budget, which ultimately prevailed. Many constituent groups advocated for increased funds and were not successful.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE FY2008 BUDGET

- The Governor has 10 days to either sign the budget or issue his line item vetoes, and can only veto money amounts or language. The Governor cannot add additional money to a line item. If the Governor takes no action on the budget within 10 days, it becomes law.

- The legislature can override a veto with a 2/3 vote in both the House and Senate.

THANK YOU!

- First, **thank you to all of you who made telephone calls regarding the budget**, especially those who made calls in recent weeks regarding the Conference Committee budget.

- **Your calls kept ABE visible, made our voice heard, and made a tremendous difference in the outcome for ABE. Thank you for making these important calls. We would not have been successful without your efforts.**

- **Thank you to all our allies who supported the ABE line item in their budget advocacy, especially:** the MIRA Coalition, the Workforce Solutions Group, the AFL-CIO and the Massachusetts Business Roundtable.

- **Now, it is important for us to thank the legislature.** Please take the time to thank the legislators you called for their support of the ABE line item, especially : your state representative, state senator, Speaker DiMasi, Senate President Murray, House Ways and Means Chair DeLeo, Senate Ways and Means Chair Panagiotakos, and any Conference Committee members you called. Telephone numbers are at the end of this email.

LEGISLATIVE TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Leadership:

Senate President Murray: 617.722.1500

House Speaker DiMasi: 617.722.2500

Senate Ways and Means Chairman Panagiotakos: 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