

Alert #05-08: Immediate Action This Week on House Budget Amendment April 18, 2008

THIS LIST IS FOR MCAE PUBLIC POLICY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLY

NOTE: ALL REPLIES TO THE LIST ARE DISCARDED

Please send all responses and questions to litvolma@aol.com or steve.reuys@umb.edu. Thanks!

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**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**

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**FY2009 HOUSE BUDGET AMENDMENT FILED FOR ABE LINE ITEM #7035-0002**

- The FY2009 House budget funded the ABE line item #7035-0002 at \$30,072,458. The current ABE funding level is \$30,101,348.

- **Rep. Dan Bosley** has filed Amendment #435 to increase the amount of ABE funding to **\$35 million**. As of right now, Reps. **Sanchez, Koczera** and **Wolf** have signed on to the amendment as co-sponsors.

- **Rep. Denise Provost** has also filed an amendment to increase ABE funding to its current level of \$30.1 (an increase of approximately \$30,000).

- Although the filing deadline is 5 p.m. today and we don't know if any other ABE amendments will be filed, MCAE is supporting Rep. Bosley's amendment request.

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

- **Please call your representative's office and ask him/her to:**

1. **sign on to Rep. Bosley's amendment #435 for ABE line item #7035-0002; and**
2. **ask House Ways and Means Chairman DeLeo and House Speaker DiMasi to support the ABE amendment and make sure it reaches the floor for a vote.**

- There are typically 800-1000 amendments filed to the House budget and most of them never reach the floor for a vote because there aren't enough co-sponsors and there isn't enough visible support.

- There are enough ABE programs across the state that we should be able to get a majority of 81 representatives to sign on if everyone takes 5 minutes to make a telephone call to a representative.

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

### **SCRIPT TO USE:**

- Say your name and if you are 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).

- Say you are urging the representative to sign on to Bosley amendment #435 to increase funding for ABE line item #7035-0002.

- Say that you are also asking the representative to urge Chairman DeLeo and Speaker DiMasi to support an ABE funding increase and make sure the Bosley amendment reaches the floor for a vote.

- If you have the opportunity, say why adult basic education is important to you:

\*If you are a student, say how adult basic education is helping you to achieve your goals.

\*If you are a staff member or volunteer, say how adult basic education is helping your student(s) and why you believe adult basic education is an important investment in the state's future (e.g., educated workforce, the relationship of children's success in school to the education level of parents, health literacy, financial literacy, civic participation, recidivism rates).

- Ask if the representative plans to sign on and if they don't know yet, when you could call back to see what he/she has decided to do.

- Thank the representative and/or aide very much for their time.

### **NEW WAY TO REPORT BACK**

**- Please note that we are continuing with our new reporting system started in February to make it easier to track support and report back.**

**- Please report back directly to Luc Schuster at MCAE ([lschuster@mcae.net](mailto:lschuster@mcae.net) and 617.778.7971) and to your Program Point Person.**

- If you don't know who your Program Point Person is or you don't have one, please still report back to Luc Schuster.

- Do not report back to the Regional Coordinators.

**- Report the following information:**

\* Your program's name

\* Your state representative's name

\* Rate the response from the representative using this scale:

**1 = made a definite commitment to sign on to the amendment**

**2 = favorable toward your request, but no definite commitment**

**3 = neutral toward your request**

**4 = opposed or negative to the request; will definitely not support it**

### **BUDGET TIMELINE:**

Time to make calls: **immediately**

Deadline for signing on to amendments: **Friday, April 25 at 5 p.m.**

Budget debate begins: **Monday, April 28**

**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

- 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.

- We will continue to send updates as more sponsors sign on, and will let you know if any other amendments are filed.

**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](http://www.wheredoivotema.com).

- For questions, 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!**

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