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ALERT

THE VOICE OF
ADULT EDUCATION
IN MASSACHUSETTS

Alert #12- FY2012

6/5/12

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW:** State (not federal)
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Staff, adult learners, volunteers
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** State senators and representatives
4. **TIME LINE:** Immediate, to legislators who will be contacting the Joint Conference Committee regarding support for the Senate budget and budget language.

HOUSE & SENATE APPOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

- The Joint Conference Committee has been appointed to reconcile the House and Senate budget figures for FY2013.

- The Joint Conference Committee members are:

Representative Viriato DeMacedo (R-Plymouth)
Representative Brian Dempsey (D-Haverhill)
Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington)

Senator Stephen Brewer (D-Barre)
Senator Jennifer Flanagan (D-Leominster)
Senator Michael Knapik (R-Westfield)

- The Senate budget for FY2013 funds the ABE line item 7035-0002 at \$30,707,455. The House budget for FY2013 funds ABE at \$29,923,112, and includes a \$150,000 earmark for Operation A.B.L.E. MCAE opposes this earmark.

- In FY2012, the ABE line item is funded at \$30,702,108 with no

NEXT MCAE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 8, 2012

10 a.m. to 12 noon

UMass/Boston

100 Morrissey Blvd Healey
Library

Media Conference Room
Lower Level

via videoconference:

Holyoke Community College
contact gkohout@hcc.edu for
exact room location

earmarks.

TALKING POINTS FOR IMMEDIATE CALLS TO YOUR STATE SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE TO ADOPT SENATE VERSION

- Give your name and say that you are a constituent.
- Urge your legislators to call or send a letter to the members of the Joint Conference Committee and request that they adopt both the Senate budget language with no earmark and the Senate appropriation of \$30,707,455 in line item 7035-0002 relative to adult basic education (ABE) for the final version of the FY2013 budget to be released by the Joint Conference Committee.
- Let them know that the House budget includes a lower appropriation of \$29,923,112 and an earmark of \$150,000 for Operation A.B.L.E. which MCAE opposes.
- Remind them that earmarking is an entitlement, and it completely circumvents the open and competitive funding process under which the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) makes funding decisions.
- As an entitlement, this earmark is unfair to all the other programs who have submitted applications, who have demonstrated a commitment and effectiveness in providing ABE services, and whose performance is judged by set ABE program performance measures.
- Further, this specific earmark is for Operation A.B.L.E. to provide "basic workforce and skills training, employment services and job re-entry support to older workers." It is inappropriate for this program to be funded under the adult basic education line item #7035-0002 which is for ABE services with universal access for anyone over age 16 who is not currently enrolled in a public school program, and does not gear services to a specific age population such as "older workers".
- Inform them that Operation A.B.L.E. is not currently funded by ESE and did not submit a grant application during this most recent open funding process.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO THANK YOUR LEGISLATOR!

- The ABE field is known for thanking legislators for their support.

- Please take the time now to thank your legislators for his/her support of the ABE!

REPORT BACK

1. Please remember to report back to your Program Point Person. If you do not know who your Program Point Person is or you don't have one, please report back to Jennifer McAllister at MCAE. (jmcallister@mcae.net)

2. Report the following important information to your program point person for each individual call you made:

- Whom you called and his/her response.
- Rate the response from each call separately using this scale:
0 = unknown; left a message;
1 = made a definitive commitment to support the specific request (not just ABE in general);
2 = favorable toward request, but no definite commitment;
3 = neutral toward your request;
4 = opposed or negative to the request; definitely will not support it.

THANK YOU!

- Thank you for everything you did to contact your state representative and state senator regarding the FY2013 budget for ABE. Your efforts make all the difference!
- For questions on this alert, contact Jennifer McAllister at jmcallister@mcae.net or 617-482-MCAE (6223), Roberta Soolman at litvolma@aol.com or 617-367-1313, or Steve Reuys at steve.reuys@umb.edu or 617-287-4071.

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Massachusetts Coalition for Adult Education | MCAE | 101 Tremont Street, Suite 812 | Boston | MA | 02108