



ALERT

THE VOICE OF
ADULT EDUCATION
IN MASSACHUSETTS

Alert #4 - FY2013

3/14/13

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW: Federal**
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION: Information; thank you action**
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED: US Representatives in Washington**

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT (WIA) UPDATE

Massachusetts receives \$10.2 million for adult basic education under the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIA re-authorization has been delayed for many years.

Last week the House Education and the Workforce Committee voted on the *Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act* ([H.R. 803](#)), that seeks to consolidate 35 existing federal workforce programs, including adult basic education into a single \$6 billion block grant called the Workforce Investment Fund. Generally, block grants give discretion to governors who could choose to allocate the money for purposes other than adult basic education.

Representative John Tierney (D-MA) and other committee members walked out in protest of this bill during last week's hearing. Click [here](#) to read the statement issued by Representative Tierney and his colleagues. This week the US House is set to vote on the so called SKILLS Act. Massachusetts House members are expected to oppose this bill and support an alternative bill on the House floor.

Rep. Tierney and his colleagues oppose the bill for the following reasons:

- It puts at risk services for disadvantaged populations.
- It jeopardizes the voice of many stakeholders.
- It fails to take advantage of what's been learned in the last decade to make meaningful reforms.
- It fails to encourage innovation.
- It eliminates programs just to eliminate them without any evaluation of the program's effectiveness.
- It was not a bipartisan effort.

Additional information regarding this issue can be found on the National

NEXT MCAE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 12, 2013

10 a.m. to 12 noon
UMass/Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd Healey
Library
Media Conference Room
Lower Level

via videoconference:
Holyoke Community
College
contact kdunkelberg@hcc.edu
for exact room location

Coalition for Literacy's [website](#).

Please consider calling your US Congressional Representative in Washington to thank him/her for advocating for adult basic education and for not supporting H.R. 803.

Rep. Capuano: 202-225-5111
Rep. Keating: 202-225-3111
Rep. Kennedy: 202-225-5931
Rep. Lynch: 202-225-8273
Rep. McGovern: 202-225-6101
Rep. Markey: 202-225-2836
Rep. Neal: 202-225-5601
Rep. Tierney: 202-225-8020
Rep. Tsongas: 202-225-3411

To find your U.S. Representative, visit: www.wheredoivotema.com

MASSACHUSETTS PROJECTED TO LOSE \$520,200 FOR ADULT BASIC EDUCATION UNDER SEQUESTRATION

In late February, MCAE contacted the Massachusetts Congressional delegation to let them know what the impact of sequestration would be on adult basic education funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), and urged them to do whatever is necessary to prevent Sequestration while still protecting all vital services, including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

On March 1, 2013, federal sequestration went into effect, and federal adult education grant awards to states in July 2013 will be approximately 5% less than the current year appropriation. **Massachusetts expects to lose approximately \$520,200 in federal adult education funding due to the sequestration cuts.**

As you may know, the adult basic education (ABE) system in Massachusetts, is funded with a \$10.2 million allocation from WIA and \$30.1 million from the state budget, and currently provides essential basic skills instruction to 21,000 adults with an additional 18,500 (unduplicated count) on the wait list.

QUESTIONS:

- 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.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to litvolma@aol.com by litvolma@aol.com | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

