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# ALERT

THE VOICE OF  
ADULT EDUCATION  
IN MASSACHUSETTS

## Alert #4 - FY2012

1/23/12

### ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW:** Federal
2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Staff, adult learners, volunteers
3. **WHO IS BEING CONTACTED:** US Representatives and US Senators Kerry and Brown
4. **TIME LINE:** **Deadline is Tuesday, January 24, 2012**

### URGE CONGRESS TO SAY NO TO REQUIRING A HS DIPLOMA OR GED TO QUALIFY FOR 2012 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION BENEFITS

- Congress is expected to continue its debate on the extension of Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits next week.
- House Republicans want to deny UI benefits to workers who do not have a high school diploma or GED and are not enrolled in classes to earn a diploma or a GED.
- This provision would apply no matter how long they worked or whether they even have access to diploma or GED programs.
- Additional information regarding this issue can be found on the National Coalition for Literacy's [website](#).
- **Please take 5 minutes to make 3 calls:** 1 to your US Representative, 1 to US Senator Scott Brown and 1 to US Senator John Kerry.
- **We realize this is a busy time of year.** If at least several people at your program can make 3 calls, we could generate enough calls to make a significant impact on behalf of our students on this important issue.

### NEXT MCAE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

**February 10, 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](mailto:gkohout@hcc.edu) for  
exact room location

## SCRIPT TO USE

1. Give your name.
2. Ask to speak with the aide working on the UI extension bill and ask for the aide's name for future reference.
3. Urge your US Representative/Senator Kerry/Senator Brown to **oppose** proposals to deny UI benefits to workers who do not have a HS diploma or GED and are not enrolled in diploma or GED classes.

### 4. Tell them why this proposal is unfair:

- Workers who need UI benefits and qualify for them should be eligible regardless of whether they have a high school diploma or GED, or are enrolled in a diploma or GED class.
- This provision requires that workers enroll in a diploma or GED class if they do not have a diploma or GED, but it does not provide any additional funding to provide these classes.
- Unemployed workers, especially those with less education, depend on UI benefits to help them and their families through difficult times. They should not be denied benefits because they lack a diploma or GED.

## CONTACT INFORMATION (Washington DC offices)

**US Senator Scott Brown**  
(202) 224-4543

**US Senator John Kerry**  
(202) 224-2742

### **US Representatives from Massachusetts**

Rep. Capuano: (202) 225-5111  
Rep. Frank: (202) 225-5931  
Rep. Keating: (202) 225-3111  
Rep. Lynch: (202) 225-8273  
Rep. McGovern: (202) 225-6101  
Rep. Markey: (202) 225-2836  
Rep. Neal: (202) 225-5601  
Rep. Olver: (202) 225-5335  
Rep. Tierney: (202) 225-8020  
Rep. Tsongas: (202) 225-3411

- To find your U.S. Representative visit: [www.wheredoivotema.com](http://www.wheredoivotema.com)

## REPORT BACK

1. Please 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](mailto: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.**

## QUESTIONS:

- For questions on this alert, contact Jennifer McAllister at [jmcallister@mcae.net](mailto:jmcallister@mcae.net) or 617-482-MCAE (6223), Roberta Soolman at [litvolma@aol.com](mailto:litvolma@aol.com) or 617-367-1313, or Steve Reuys at [steve.reuys@umb.edu](mailto:steve.reuys@umb.edu) or 617-287-4071.

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