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ALERT

THE VOICE OF
ADULT EDUCATION
IN MASSACHUSETTS

Alert #9 - FY2011

5/31/11

ALERT SUMMARY:

1. **PURVIEW:** State (not federal)

2. **LEVEL OF MOBILIZATION:** Students and practitioners to attend public hearing and/or submit written testimony

HEARING ON JUNE 8: PROPOSED COMMISSION TO STUDY FINANCIAL AID PRACTICES AT FOR-PROFIT SCHOOLS

- The proposed legislation, entitled "An Act to Form a Commission on For-Profit Schools" (House Bill 1066/Senate Bill 134), would create a commission to study and make recommendations concerning the regulation and oversight of Massachusetts for-profit schools with a particular focus on protecting students who receive state and federal financial aid for their education at these institutions. See link below for full text of the bill.

- The commission will look at issues such as:

- **enforcement of consumer protection laws** regarding advertising, recruitment, retention, financial aid practices, credit transfer practices, fees and penalties;
- **availability of free or low-cost loan counseling and legal support** for Massachusetts residents in default on student loans;
- **research into the need for increased consumer education** about for-profit schools and the financial responsibilities associated with student loans;
- **recommendations to provide consumers with easier access to information about the schools' compliance with state and federal laws**, the loan default rate or schools which have been sanctioned by Massachusetts and other states; and
- **requiring counseling for students who are considering financing** their for-profit school education with loans.

NEXT MCAE PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 10, 2011
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

Bristol Community College
annemarie.espindola@bcc.edu
for exact room location

BRING STUDENTS TO PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 8 AND/OR SUBMIT WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION

- **MCAE supports this bill** and encourages ABE programs to bring students to the hearing who attended a for-profit school, had a negative experience with financial aid and are willing to share their experience by testifying.
- **The Joint Committee on Higher Education has scheduled the public hearing on this bill for Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 10 am in Room A2 at the State House.**
- **Written testimony can be mailed to:**

Representative Tom Sannicandro, House Chair
Joint Committee on Higher Education
State House, Room 472
Boston, MA 02133

Senator Michael O. Moore, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on Higher Education
State House, Room 215
Boston, MA 02133

HELP STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING

- Review the bill summary with the student.
- Help the student prepare his/her written testimony or speaking remarks.
- Have the student practice reading or speaking his/her remarks in front of the class or with you in preparation for the public hearing.
- [Click here](#) here for the bill summary.
- [Click here](#) for a template that can be used to help students and practitioners prepare testimony for the public hearing.

PLEASE RSVP TO CRITTENTON WOMEN'S UNION IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE HEARING

- This bill is one of Crittenton Women's Union (CWU) coalition bills, and they are organizing the testimony and student participation for the public hearing.
- Please contact Chelsea Sedani, Public Policy Coordinator from CWU, if you plan to attend this event. She can be reached at 617-259-2936 or by email at csedani@liveworkthrive.org.

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.

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