

Adult Educator and Learner Consortium

A project of The Rhode Island Workforce Alliance

Federal Advocacy Alert to Increase Adult Education Funding-FY2010

We're asking you to join a national campaign to push for an increase of \$750 million for adult education. It's important to communicate to the RI Congressional delegation that adult education must be a **high priority** for increased federal support.

The Adult Education community across the country has launched a massive letter campaign. "We have reached the critical point in our advocacy work with the new political alignment and process in Washington. The opportunity is within our reach to move adult education to the forefront in the policy and funding discussions on the national level" states Art Ellison, Policy Committee Chair, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education (NCSDAE) in his advocacy alert last week.

We are asking teachers, students, family and friends of adult education to write their U.S. Representatives and Senators to ask them to support a \$750 million increase in adult education funding.

What: One page, original letters (No form letters) to your U.S. Representative and two Senators. Letters from students should include:

- Why they enrolled in adult education?
- How it has helped them?
- What their plans are after they graduate or complete the program they're currently in?
- A request support for additional funding of \$750 million so that other adults will have the same opportunity.

How many: Each adult education program should strive to have **20-40 students** write to their own Representative and both Senators. The overall goal for Rhode Island is to send **500 letters** each to Congressmen Patrick Kennedy and James Langevin, Senators Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse.

Deliver by: FAX, email, or telephone. Please do not send letters to Washington via U.S. Postal Service; letters will arrive more quickly using these other means.

Deadline: Faxes, emails and calls should be completed by April 21, 2009. We ask that you please keep track of the number of faxed letters, emails or phone calls made to each congressional member.

<p>The Honorable Senator Jack Reed 728 Hart Senate Building Washington, D.C 20510 Phone: 1.202.224.4642 Fax: 1.202.224.4680 E-mail: Seth Gerson, Legislative Assistant SETH_GERSON@REED.SENATE.GOV</p>	<p>The Honorable Representative Patrick Kennedy 407 Cannon House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C 20515 Phone: 1.202.225.4911 Fax:1.202.225.3290 E-mail: Laurel Havas, Legislative Assistant Laurel.Havas@mail.house.gov</p>
<p>The Honorable Senator Sheldon Whitehouse 502 Hart Senate Building Washington, D.C 20510-3905 Phone: 1.202.224.2921 Fax: 1.202.228.6362 E-mail: Regan Fitzgerald, Legislative Assistant REGAN_FITZGERALD@WHITEHOUSE.SENATE.GOV</p>	<p>The Honorable Representative James Langevin 109 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C 20515 Phone: 1.202.225.2735 Fax: 1.202.225.5976 E-mail: Kirtley Fisher, Legislative Assistant KIRTLEY.FISHER@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV</p>

We will be successful only if we involve students now!

For more information contact Heidi Collins at 456.2751 or email: hcollins@ric.edu

Additional Contact Information

1. Letters to Representative Kennedy and Representative Langevin

If the student doesn't know what district they live in they can find out which Congressman represents them by going to <http://www.sec.state.ri.us/vic> and put in their street address and city.

Students can also go directly to Write your Representative link to send an email message.

<https://writerep.house.gov/writerep/welcome.shtml>

2. Letters to both Senator Jack Reed and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. Either fax letters or go to **Write Your Senator** link to send an email message.

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=RI

3. Contacting members of Congress over the telephone is also appropriate (staff person listed is the contact person to ask for when calling the office).

National resource link: National Coalition for Literacy: <http://www.ncladvocacy.org/actnow.html>