
From: Ellison, Art [mailto:AEllison@ed.state.nh.us]
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 11:29 AM
Subject: Action Alert: FY09 Federal Budget
Importance: High

To: SPOC Network

From: Art Ellison, Policy Committee Chair, National Council of State Directors of Adult Education

Re: Action Alert: FY09 Federal Budget

This alert calls for a major letter writing campaign from every state in the country to all members of the US House and Senate. The US House Appropriations Committee is beginning the review process of the President's FY09 Budget proposal that was submitted to Congress on Feb 4, 2008. In this election year it is extremely important that members of the current US Congress hear from their constituents.

While letters from adult education staff are welcome, the major focus of this campaign will be STUDENT LETTERS. As you know adult education students are the very best advocates for their programs. This letter writing campaign will only be successful if we have the active cooperation of the adult education program staff at the local level.

Student letters should be no more than one page and should address these three points:

(1) Why the student came back to school? (2) What the student is planning to do when he or she finishes the program? (3) Ask the Senator or Representative to increase funding for adult education

The letters should be sent to the Washington offices of: the two US Senators from the student's state and the member of the US House from the student's Congressional district. In order to make this work each local adult education program will need the names of your US Senators, the Congressman/Congresswoman from the student's district and the correct US mail addresses, fax numbers and email addresses for each of the three offices. Letters can be sent by any one of these methods although faxed and email letters will arrive much faster than those sent by US mail.

We would like the letter writing campaign to begin as soon as possible. In the past the impact of our letter writing campaigns has spread out over seven or eight weeks during a Congressional session. With this current campaign the letters should start arriving in Washington within the next week and continue for most of March and into April.

The goals for this campaign are: 300 letters from each Congressional district to the House members and 1,000 from each state to the US Senators.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need assistance in this effort. I would like to have a copy of the state alert that you send to your network. These will be useful as guides for some states as they construct their alerts. Thank you again for all of your work. Art

Tennessee 2008 Letter Campaign Alert

Message: Increase Funding for Adult Education

Who Writes: Students, Adult Educators, and Allies

What: Unique, one-page letters (**No Form Letters**)
Petitions (only for those who cannot write a letter)

How Many: **Goal** –To deliver a minimum of **300** individual letters per Congressional District and **1000** for every member of the Senate

“Small” programs (serves up to 200 students/ year):	20 letters / legislator
“Lower-mid-sized” programs (serves 201-500 students / year):	50 letters / legislator
“Mid-sized” programs (serves 501-1,000 students / year):	125 letters / legislator
“Upper-Mid-sized” programs (serves 1,001 – 2,000 students/ year):	175 letters / legislator
“Large” Programs (serves over 2,000 students / year):	300 letters / legislator

Process: See the *TAACE Federal-Level Advocacy Letter Campaign Packet* for process and letter guidelines¹.

Talking Points	
<p>Students Write Success Stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First paragraph: I am enrolled in the adult education program which is provided by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. ■ Why enrolled ■ How the program has impacted their lives ■ Future plans ■ Thank them for AE 	<p>Adult Educators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First paragraph: Increase funding for Adult Education. Adult Education programs are provided by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. ■ Successes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Program Quality ■ Value of the program to students & community ■ Individual student stories ■ Important program data ■ Unmet Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Local waiting list and inflation issues ■ Other

¹ TAACE Federal-Level Advocacy Campaign Packet
http://literacytent.org/tmp/taace_2008_federal-level_advocacy_packet.doc

Timetable

February-March Timetable

- **February 4** President's budget released
- **February 1-10** Everyone reviews materials
- **February 11** Letter-Writing Alert released

(3 weeks to write letters)

- **February 18 – 22** Congressional Recess *
- **February 28** Local Contact deadline to mail letters to District Contact
- **March 7** District Contact deadline to mail letters to Washington, D.C. contact
- **March 14** Washington D.C.'s deadline to hand-deliver and report back

Memphis Adult Education Program

Contact Person– Idell Boyd LaFlora
(901) 416-8187

CALL SENATOR ALEXANDER: 202 224-4944 MESSAGE : “PLEASE ASK SENATOR ALEXANDER TO CONTACT SENATOR HARKIN, ASKING HIM TO ACCEPT THE HOUSE FIGURE FOR ADULT EDUCATION IN THE FY08 APPROPRIATIONS BILL”

You might add your own comments about how much he is respected on education issues and we appreciate him acting on our behalf to secure an increase in funding for AE.

STATE GOAL : A Minimum of 200 CALLS by Labor Day Weekend

Caller's Name	Date/Time

This alert is sent through the national Single Point of Contact (SPOC) Network, of which Tennesseans are a part. The SPOC network is a national grassroots network that advocates for adult literacy, and is run by the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education. For more information about the SPOC Network, visit: <http://www.ncsdae.org/myweb/SPOC.htm>