



National Coalition for Literacy

November 18th, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs and Ranking Members,

The National Coalition for Literacy, a coalition of more than 30 leading national, state, and regional organizations dedicated to advancing adult education, family literacy, and English language acquisition in the U.S., (See <http://national-coalition-literacy.org/about/membership> for a list of our members), congratulates you on the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). This week, as you finalize allocations to annual appropriations bills under the revised budget caps, we urge you to ensure that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill includes support for adult education under Title II of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) **at least at the FY 2016 authorized level of \$622 million.**

As you know, under the old caps and allocations the Senate proposed funding **WIOA Title II adult education programs \$35 million below the fiscal year 2015 enacted level**, by cutting Adult Basic and Literacy Education State Grants by \$29 million, and Adult Education National Leadership Activities by \$6 million. As we noted at the time, after the overwhelming bipartisan support for the passage of WIOA last year, it was disappointing to see a education funded at levels below those authorized by that legislation. **WIOA's effectiveness will be severely impaired if we do not reverse the recent trend of cutting funding for adult education programs covered under Title II of the new Act.**

Just over a year ago, Congress voted for WIOA in overwhelming bipartisan votes in both the House and Senate. The law established adult education as one of the four key programs in the workforce system. **That is why the \$622 million authorized in WIOA in FY 2016 for Title II is so important.**

Thank you for your leadership in recognizing the importance of adult education in WIOA, and we look forward to working with Congress on ensuring WIOA's success.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at jcarter@literacypolicy.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "C".

Jeff Carter
NCL President 2015-2016

Cc: Senator Roy Blunt, Chairman, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
Representative Tom Cole, Chairman, House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee
Representative Rosa Delauro, Ranking Member, House Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee