



**Urge Congress to Reauthorize WIA  
NOW!  
Weigh in: What Changes in Adult  
Education Do You Want Most?**

**David Rosen**

**Deadline: January 15, 2009**  
<http://blog.ncladvocacy.org>

The Workforce Investment Act, Title II—the legislation that makes federally funded adult education programs possible—hasn't changed since it was first authorized in 1998. Thanks to your advocacy efforts, Congress is now working to change it. Now it is time to tell Congress what changes **you** want to see most in adult education programs.

Remember, this is *reauthorization*, not *appropriations*. We will ask you to weigh in on Appropriations in February, after the President's proposed FY 2011 Budget is released.

**So what *can* we change?** Below are the National Coalition for Literacy's Top WIA Reauthorization Priorities. Please adopt them as you see fit to develop your message to Congress.

**Actions:**

1. Use the NCL Top WIA Priorities to develop your message, or identify your own WIA Reauthorization priorities.
2. Call, email, or fax your US Senators and Representative today.
3. Give them this message:

“As you work to reauthorize WIA Title II now, I would like the new law to include provisions that: \_\_\_\_ [insert talking point(s)] \_\_\_\_.”

Then talk about your experience with respect to the issue(s) you raise. Keep the letter to one page or less.

**How:**

To email the Senate Authorizing Committee, visit:

<http://help.senate.gov/About.html>

Click on “Email the Committee” at the top right.

**Contact Information:**

Locate your US legislators' contact information using ProLiteracy's

(<http://capwiz.com/proliteracy/dbq/officials/>) or TESOL's

(<http://capwiz.com/tesol/dbq/officials/>) interactive map.

**Tell us you made your contact by visiting:**

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ChangeWIA>

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**Talking Points**

The following are the National Coalition for Literacy WIA Reauthorization Top Priorities. Please adopt these as you see fit for your message to Congress and speak from your own experience about the issue. You may find that not all of these are equally important to you and your program.

A reauthorized WIA should include provisions that:

Align the activities of Title I and Title II for the benefit of adult education students, specifically by: establishing goals for co-enrollment; establishing shared accountabilities for serving adult education students; explicitly allowing career pathways, integrated education/training and dual and concurrent enrollment; and creating a new funding stream to support a career pathways leadership grant program.

Use a consistent definition of adult education and allowable local adult education activities in Title I and Title II.

Authorize annual appropriations for adult education of \$1 billion or more.

Authorize and codify the English Literacy and Civics part of Title II.

Establish an independent National Center for Adult Education, Literacy and Workforce Skills to provide the resources necessary to improve practice and provide high quality services to the adult education community and those they serve.

Increase the amount of state leadership funds from 12.5% to a minimum of 15% to improve teacher quality by providing more professional development, improving working conditions, professionalizing the workforce, and researching what practitioners need to be effective.

Fund and improve the use of technology for teaching and learning through innovation grants and pilot projects.

Strengthen the direct and equitable provisions of the law to ensure that all local eligible providers

have access to apply and compete for grants and contracts.

Include language that recognizes that local programs providing individual instruction may provide fewer contact hours than programs employing group instruction.

Eliminate the current incentive grant program and allow those funds to be added to the formula grants for states.

Create a separate funding stream in Title I for the operation of the one-stop delivery system.

Fund a review of, and update, the National Reporting System, to ensure that required outcomes measures are appropriate for all levels of adult education students.

**To learn more about WIA Reauthorization, visit: [http://www.ncladvocacy.org/act\\_wiareauthor.html](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/act_wiareauthor.html)**

Please see <http://www.national-coalition-literacy.org/analysis.html>, WIA Side-by-side Analysis, Section 203, Definitions, Column 2, Coalition Proposal.

Please see [http://www.ncladvocacy.org/NationalCenterPolicyPrinciples\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/NationalCenterPolicyPrinciples_FINAL.pdf) and [http://www.ncladvocacy.org/Center\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ncladvocacy.org/Center_FINAL.pdf)

The 1998 Workforce Investment Act, Title II, defines “eligible providers” in Section 203, Definitions, as: a local educational agency; a community-based organization; a volunteer literacy organization; an institution of higher education; a public or private nonprofit agency; a library; a public housing authority; a nonprofit institution

that... has the ability to provide literacy services to adults and families; and a consortium of the agencies, organizations, institutions, libraries, or authorities described in [the foregoing].

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From: Art Ellison, SPOC Network  
Administrator **12-22-2009**

Re: Action Alert: Thank You to US  
Senators and House Members who voted for the  
FY10 Federal Budget

Last week both the House and Senate approved the Federal FY10 Federal Budget. This budget contained an additional \$74 million for adult education and level funded Even Start at \$66 million. While all states will share in the additional \$74 million a significant amount of that money will go to Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and DC.

A goal for all of us as adult educators is to **have five contacts** with our Congressional offices during each school year. Thank you contacts with those members of Congress who supported our increased appropriation for FY10 is one of those opportunities. In New Hampshire we are making the contacts by telephone to the appropriate Washington offices of our Congressional delegation. These are brief messages" thanking the Senator or House member for supporting additional funding for adult education in the FY10 budget". We are asking all local program directors and some of our teaching staff to make these calls.

Here is the information on who supported the bill which contained our increased funding:

US Senate Vote: 57 YEAs 35 NAYs

Eight Senators Did Not Vote: Bond-MO, Bunning-KY, Coburn-OK, Dorgan-ND, Inhofe-OK, Merkley-OR, Murray-WA, Voinovich-OH

All Democrats Supported the Resolution except:  
Bayh-IN, McCaskill-MO, Fiengold-WI

All Republicans voted against the Resolution except: Collins-ME, Shelby-AL

US House 217 YEAs 212 NAYs

Six Representative Did Not Vote: Johnson-TX, Linder-GA, Murtha-PA, Radanovich-CA, Speier-CA, Young-FL

All Republicans voted against the Resolution

All Democrats voted for the Resolution except:  
Adler-NJ, Mitchell-AZ, Murphy-PA, Arcuri-NY, Bean-IL, Boren-OK, Boyd-FL, Bright-AL, Childers-MS, Connolly-VA, Griffith-AL, Herseth-Sandlin-SD, Hill-IN, Himes-CT, Hodes-NH, Kind-WI, Kirkpatrick-AZ, Kosmas-FL, Kratovil-MD, Nye-VA, Peters-MI, Peterson-MN, Pomeroy-ND, Quigley-IL, Schrader-OR, Smith-WA, Donnelly-IN, Driehaus-OH, Edwards-TX, Ellsworth-IN, Foster-IL, Markey-CO, Matheson-UT, Melancon-LA, Minnick-ID, Taylor-MS, Teague-NM

Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Thank you for your continued support on behalf of our students.

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From: Art Ellison, Policy Committee Chair,  
National Council of State Directors of Adult  
Education **December 10, 2009**

Re: FY10 Federal Allocations

The US House and Senate have reached agreement on the FY10 federal budget for the Fiscal Year that started on Oct. 1, 2009. Final

approval of this budget will take place in the House within a few days and in the Senate after the disposition of the health care reform legislation. As you will remember this process started in May when the President sent his budget proposal to Congress.

The final budget figures are good news for adult education. **Even Start** will be level funded at \$66 million and **adult education** will receive a \$72 million increase. The increase in adult education funding is distributed as follows: \$46 million to those states that lost funding from 2003-2008 due to an administrative error in the funding formula. The \$46 million will go in July to the following states:

Alabama \$2,639,984    Arizona \$829,214  
Arkansas \$1,344,687    California  
\$4,699,085    Delaware \$79,866

Florida \$6,073,066    Georgia \$1,967,783  
Kentucky \$2,384,222    Louisiana \$932,844  
Mississippi \$1,407,081

Nevada \$676,496    New York \$4,010,804  
North Carolina \$4,580,842    Rhode Island  
\$370,557

South Carolina \$1,867,302    Tennessee  
\$3,212,112    Texas \$2,341,220    West  
Virginia \$1,130,606

District of Columbia \$299,654

The remaining \$26 million will be distributed to all of the states according to the new ACS formula that the Office of Adult and Vocational Education is now using.

The \$138 million for adult education and Even Start in this budget is the direct result of your work and the work of your state networks over the past seven months. Please thank everyone for their committed and continued efforts on behalf of undereducated adults in our country.

The FY11 budget proposal will go from the White House to Congress in early February. Hopefully that proposed budget will have a substantial increase in funding that we can

support through the appropriations process in Congress.

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### Race to Top: Driving Policy Action Across the States

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2009/12/23/16states.h29.html?tkn=RVPFzM22EIjqP2ntW5Er713F556rbnaM2qjT>

As governors and state legislators gear up for a new year of budget action and policymaking, the [federal Race to the Top competition](#) is helping to drive a flurry of measures nationwide aimed, at least in part, at making states stronger candidates for a slice of the \$4 billion in education grants.

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### Timeless Quote

“It is wasteful for us to spend time on important issues and then leave the action entirely to someone else. Inform (our elected officials) of your thoughts – encourage them in their efforts and don’t let ‘wool be pulled over your eyes’” – Eleanor Wilcox, Women’s Committee Chairman in January 1971 issue of North Dakota Farm Bureau News.

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