



National Coalition For Literacy

**Congress May Not Reauthorize the
Adult Education and Family Literacy Act AGAIN.**

It's Time to Change That **Now.**

Call your US Senators and Representative today.

Message:

Reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title II NOW.
(WIA Title II is also known as the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA).)

Is your Senator or Representative on the authorizing Committee? Check here:

Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

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

House Education and Labor Committee

<http://edlabor.house.gov/about/members/>

If so, urge them to reauthorize WIA Title II now.

If they are not on the authorizing committee, urge them to contact their colleagues on these committees, and ask them to reauthorize WIA Title II now.

Deadline: Wednesday, November 18, 2009

How: Calls, faxes, emails.

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.

Goal:

We need 50,000 contacts made to the Hill on this issue. Please make yours one of them.

Talking Points: Below.

Tell us you made your contact by visiting

<http://tinyurl.com/MoveWIATitleII>

Or Try:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2firRdE2KlkhA2QISvf5xpA_3d_3d

THE ISSUE

Senate staff have told us that Congress may once again put reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act on the back burner unless they hear from us now. Currently, Congress is focused on health care reform legislation, which may occupy their agenda through the end of the year. There is a brief window of opportunity to reauthorize WIA between then and when they start work on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act next spring, but the authorizing Committees need to know their constituents want them to move. If we don't act now, there may be no reauthorization next year, either.

TALKING POINTS

We have prepared these talking points for your use when communicating with your Senators and Representatives on this issue. Feel free to put them in your own words, and to supplement them with local information on unemployment, demand for services, and program outcomes.

- AEFLA reauthorization is vital to the effectiveness of adult education nationally. The law has not been changed since WIA was first authorized in 1998.
- The economic crisis has resulted in a significant increase in demand for services but our capacity to serve adults has not increased. One reason for this is that AEFLA has not been reauthorized, signaling that adult education and family literacy is simply not a priority.
- President Obama has set this goal: "By 2020, this nation will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world." There aren't enough adults who are college-ready. We need to reauthorize AEFLA to provide opportunities for adults with limited literacy and English language proficiency to improve and to make a successful transition to post-secondary education and training.
- Adult education is part of the solution to turning around the economy and putting Americans back to work. Adult education moves adults with limited literacy and limited English proficiency into postsecondary education, training, or jobs with family sustaining wages. It increases their employability and economic stability.
- Reauthorizing WIA Title II can strengthen the ties between Title I and Title II programs, making it easier for unemployed and underemployed adults to access adult education services.
- Many local programs have not been allowed to compete for grants since WIA has not been reauthorized. Reauthorization would allow states to recompetete the grants, and to update their state plans. This will help programs meet the demands of changing times and demographics by encouraging innovation and program effectiveness.