



National Coalition For Literacy

Brenda Dann-Messier
Assistant Secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education
U.S. Department of Education
Potomac Center Plaza
550 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Assistant Secretary Dann-Messier,

The National Coalition for Literacy appreciates your leadership in moving NRS reform forward regardless of whether the Workforce Investment Act is reauthorized. NRS reform is a priority for the Coalition and for thousands of practitioners nationwide who strive to help every adult learner succeed. We are pleased that the State Directors have played an active and engaging role in an iterative revision process and that OVAE is working with them to finalize its recommendations.

However, the Coalition Board of Directors is concerned that the process laid out at the *NRS for the 21st Century: Congress of Adult Education State Directors* may not allow for the diversity of perspectives needed to make these revisions successful once implemented. We understand that there will be a public comment period as part of the Office of Management and Budget process, but we suggest that this may be too late for meaningful changes.

We recommend that you consider avenues to effectively engage all key stakeholders such as program directors, professional associations representing instructors, and providers of professional development and technical assistance. All of these stakeholders will be involved in implementing the revisions and would bring valuable insights with respect to implementation challenges and solutions. Involving key stakeholders before submitting to OMB ensures a higher degree of confidence that fewer changes would be suggested during the public comment process.

We appreciate your leadership in holding the WIA Community Conversations. We ask that you continue in the spirit of an open reform process that allows for meaningful feedback through: a) an opportunity for NCL Members to comment on the revised recommendations and implementation issues before OVAE submits its recommendations to OMB; and b) convene an advisory panel from the field to shape NRS reform. We believe these steps will strengthen the NRS, create a positive attitude toward the revisions, and ensure a smoother implementation process.

On behalf of the NCL Board of Directors,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter A. Waite". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Dr. Peter Waite
President