



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL AND ADULT EDUCATION

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

SEP 20 2010

Dr. Peter Waite
President
National Coalition for Literacy
P.O. Box 2932
Washington, D.C. 20013-2932

Dear Peter:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing the National Coalition for Literacy's (NCL) concern about contributing ideas to the process OVAE has established to make revisions in the National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS). It was good to see you at the NRS Congress this summer, and I appreciate the comments you made there and subsequently on NCL's behalf. We agree that NRS improvements must be carefully considered to assist the field without waiting for reauthorization of the *Adult Education and Family Literacy Act*.

As you mentioned, OVAE conducted 20 WIA Community Conversations with 600 participants representing 870,000 adult learners, employers, and adult education and workforce development practitioners in eight states. We were pleased to receive feedback from ProLiteracy and NCL, and OVAE used the information we received from the field to identify areas of focus for our work. One of these areas was to build on the strengths of the adult education accountability system, including the NRS. I brought the proposals that resulted to the NRS Technical Working Group (TWG) for a day-long discussion, and I believe that the TWG has consistently benefitted from the input you provided on behalf of NCL. We are currently in the process of refining the NRS proposals based on the feedback we received at the NRS Congress. We will be making them available to NRS Congress participants for further review and comment. The proposals then will be forwarded to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for posting in the *Federal Register* for a public comment period.

I am happy to meet with members of NCL and listen to other ideas or suggestions you would like to share with me. Please contact Tarik Barrett at Tarik.Barrett@ed.gov or at 202.245.8179 to set up a time for us to meet.

Sincerely,

Brenda Dann-Messier