



National Coalition For Literacy

American Association for Adult and Continuing Education ◦ Adult Literacy Media Alliance ◦ American Council on Education, GED Testing Service ◦ American Institute for Research ◦ American Library Association ◦ Center for Applied Linguistics ◦ Center for Literacy Studies, University of Tennessee ◦ Commission on Adult Basic Education ◦ Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy ◦ Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy and the Goodling Institute for Research, Pennsylvania State University ◦ International Reading Association ◦ National Center for Family Literacy ◦ National Council of State Directors of Adult Education ◦ National Even Start Association ◦ ProLiteracy Worldwide ◦ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. ◦ World Education

April 2, 2008

The Honorable George Bush
President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing on behalf of the National Coalition for Literacy, which includes twenty-six national adult education and family literacy organizations.

The Coalition recently learned of your nominees for the Advisory Board for the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) and is concerned that the individuals nominated do not have the experience and expertise necessary to guide the work of the National Institute for Literacy.


NIFL was created to be a resource for the adult education field. At that time, there was a lack of focus on adult education within the Department of Education. In our view, that situation has not been remedied.

According to the National Assessment of Adult Literacy, a large segment of the population of this country is in need of adult literacy services. To provide quality services to program participants, the adult education field needs the type of resources NIFL has been able to offer to the field during its existence. Changing the focus of NIFL at this time could be highly detrimental to adult education.

As a result, we believe it is in the best interests of NIFL to have a board consisting of members with the requisite qualifications in adult education. For example individuals such as John Comings, EdD, Harvard University, former director of the National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (the adult education research center once funded by the Institute of Education Sciences) and Eunice Askov, Distinguished Professor Emerita, Penn State University, and former co-director of the Institute for the Study of Adult Literacy would have the background necessary to guide the work of NIFL.

Adult education provides millions of Americans with the skills they need to lead productive lives. We hope you will agree with us that the field should have the best possible resources to meet the needs of this population. We hope any future nominees to the NIFL board will have the skills necessary to ensure NIFL continues to provide the adult education community with quality resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sherrie Claiborne".

Sherrie Claiborne
President
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