



National Coalition For Literacy

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

June 20, 2006

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The National Coalition for Literacy (NCL), represents adult education, and family literacy programs, libraries, and other organization providing services to adults and families. NCL congratulates the Committee on Education and the Workforce for including language in H.R. 5293, the *Senior Independence Act*, to address the adult education and literacy needs of our nation's senior citizens.

For many Americans, it is hard to imagine that older adults still need literacy instruction. However, the recent National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL, 2003) found that adults age 65 and older had, on average, the lowest literacy levels. The survey also revealed that this population included the largest percent of adults with below basic prose, document and quantitative literacy.


As you know, low literacy places many of our nation's senior citizens at risk and seriously limits their access to vital services. We commend you for inserting language into the Older Americans Act to address the health and financial literacy of our nation's seniors. NCL also appreciates your efforts to improve access to the valuable services provided under the Older Americans Act for those individuals with limited English proficiency.

Adult education programs provide a variety of services to adults, many of whom are senior citizens. Adult education programs enhance the ability of seniors to make important decisions about their long-term health and financial stability, to improve their ability to

obtain and retain jobs in today's highly technological society, and offer services to English Language Learners regardless of their age.

Today's older Americans strongly believe in the concept of lifelong learning. Once again, the National Coalition for Literacy applauds your attention to the literacy needs of our nation's senior citizens. If we can be of assistance to you as this bill continues to move through Congress, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Lipschultz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Dale Lipschultz
President

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