



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 ◦ 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 ◦ Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education ◦ Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. ◦ Voice of Adult Literacy United for Education ◦ World Education

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 8, 2005

Dear Mrs. Roybal-Allard:

On behalf of all the members of the National Coalition for Literacy we request that you support a funding level of \$225 million for the Even Start Family Literacy Program in the upcoming House/Senate conference on H.R. 3010, legislation appropriating funds for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. This program is too important to many of our nation's most vulnerable citizens to allow it to disappear or to reduce funding from the current level.

For many families, Even Start provides a way for the family to become self-sufficient. It allows parents to become their child's first and most important teacher. As you are aware, research had demonstrated over and over again the link between a mother's education level and the academic success of a child. Through participation in Even Start, parents, particularly those with low levels of literacy, learn the skills they need to obtain a job, further their education and reduce dependency on federal support programs. While children gain the skills necessary to enter school ready to learn their parents gain the skills necessary to support them academically during their school years.

We urge you to adopt a funding level of \$225 million for Even Start, thereby ensuring the more than thirty thousand Even Start participants will continue to have access to these critical family literacy services that help them to reach their full potential.

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, National Coalition for Literacy