



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

March 14, 2006

The Honorable Dale Kildee
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

via facsimile

Dear Representative Kildee:

In December 2005, the US Department of Education released the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL). The NAAL provides us with a first look at adult literacy in the 21st Century. This first look confirms the dramatic need for adult and family literacy programs and services, and continued and sustained research in adult and family literacy.

In response to the NAAL, the National Coalition for Literacy (NCL) has produced the attached **Research Concept Paper** demonstrating the critical importance of funding research in adult and family literacy at the rate of at least five million (\$5,000,000.00) dollars per year, for the next five years. Funding research in adult and family literacy is essential. This research will help determine what works and how the field can most effectively serve those in need.

However, the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has published no plans to fund a comprehensive research and development center for adult learning and literacy comparable to the one that currently exists. A dedicated research center for adult and family literacy will ensure that programmatic dollars are being well utilized now, and can be better utilized in the future.

To stay competitive, the United States must have a well-educated workforce, capable of keeping up with technological advances and an ever-changing job market. We cannot afford to leave any adults behind because of a lack of literacy skills. Research is essential to guide these efforts.

We look forward to your comments on NCL's **Research Concept Paper**. Additionally, if you have any questions regarding this paper, please contact NCL's policy analysts Lynn Selmser, lcselmser@cox.net or Noreen Lopez, lopezns@comcast.net for more information.

Cordially,

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