

ProLiteracy Policy Update

A publication of ProLiteracy Worldwide

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Year-End Appropriations Update

THE PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED INTO LAW THE FY 06 LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS BILL. This ends the long process that started on Feb. 7, 2005 when President Bush proposed a 66% cut in funding for state grants for adult basic education and literacy. The final appropriation of \$564 million is approximately equal to level funding from fiscal 2005, with the exception of a 1% across-the-board cut in domestic discretionary funding. The 1% cut came as the result of a negotiated across the board decrease for all government agencies except for veterans affairs. Our thanks, once again, to all of you who wrote letters, made phone calls, and otherwise alerted your policy-makers about the importance of this appropriation!

On a less positive note, Even Start funding was reduced to \$99 million for next year.

On February 6, 2006 President Bush will present his FY 07 Budget Proposal to Congress. At this point in time we have no hard information on the figure that will be included for adult education or Even Start. We are hoping that the budget will include at least level funding for our programs. Since we will not know the figure until Feb. 6, we are planning for two possible scenarios: one possibility would be another proposed cut of the magnitude reflected in last year's proposal and the second would be level funding.

ProLiteracy Worldwide will coordinate its appropriations advocacy efforts in the coming year with the National Coalition for Literacy and the State Directors of Adult Education, as we did this year. As Art Ellison said earlier today, "If we find ourselves in a similar position to last year we will again mount a massive effort to restore the funding. If we are level funded we will focus the campaign, CAMPAIGN 700, on increasing the appropriation from the current level to \$700 million." We will keep you apprised as developments unfold.

The Senate is scheduled to reconvene on Jan. 18. Members of the House will not be returning to Washington until Jan. Since they will be home in their Congressional districts this would be a good time to invite them to visit your program and to thank them for their support over the past year. If you have not already done so, be sure to inform your elected representatives about the NAAL report and forward any newspaper articles that may have been published in your local press to the attention of their education staff. You can find resources to help you with this at www.proliteracy.org.

Thank you for all of your advocacy efforts in your community!

Marsha L. Tait
Senior Vice President