

ProLiteracy Policy Update



A publication of ProLiteracy Worldwide

May 2, 2005

Senate and House Fail to Support Adult Ed Funding

On April 28, the Senate and House passed a compromise fiscal 2006 budget resolution that had been reached in conference committee. The resolution did not include funding for state grants for adult basic education, Even Start, and other education programs. The process of reaching the compromise negated the possibility of incorporating the Senate budget resolution amendment that had been forwarded by Senator Edward Kennedy and previously passed with bipartisan support by the Senate.

At present, “Dear Colleague” letters initiated by Senators Cantwell (WA/D) and Alexander (TN/R), and Representatives Castle (DE/R), Grijalva (AZ/R), and Miller (CA/D), are circulating. The purpose of these letters is to ask the Appropriations Committees in the Senate and House to restore funding for adult basic education to the education appropriations. (See ProLiteracy Worldwide public policy updates dated April 19 and 7, 2005).

Although it is a tougher battle to increase the allotment for state grants than it would have been had the Congress passed budget resolutions adding the funding to the total budget, the war is not yet lost. The adult education and literacy field has generated significant grassroots movement thus far in efforts to generate bipartisan support for this funding. Now is not the time to stop!

For more information about the Administration’s proposed fiscal 2006 budget and efforts to restore funding for state grants for adult basic education, visit the [Council of State Directors of Adult Education](#) Web site.