



## MAACCE Call to Action Fall 2017

Dear MAACCE Members:

The FY18 budget proposed by the President would result in a **16% cut** to federal funding for Adult Education. This cut would have a significant impact on all the Adult Education programs and services that rely on federal and state grant funding to operate.

While congressional representatives consider the recommendations made by the President, representatives need to hear from adult education professionals and adult learners. The House FY2018 Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee is proposing level funding for WIOA programming, including adult education. However, other proposed cuts could affect the adults we serve.

MAACCE's Advocacy Committee members regularly communicate with congressional staffers; however, hearing from constituents has greater impact: the more constituents each congressional representative hears from, the better the representative will be informed to advocate for Adult Education funding.

For Adult Education and Family Literacy Week and beyond, MAACCE will be supporting the Educate and Elevate Campaign spearheaded by the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (COABE) and the National Association for State Directors of Adult Education. Here is what we need from you at this time — please ask your staff and learners to communicate the following message to congressional representatives:

1. **Over 500,000 Maryland adults are without a high school diploma-12% of the population.**
2. A mother's education is one of the primary indicators of a child's academic success. 43% of children under age 6 have parents with less than a high school diploma and are economically disadvantaged.
3. Low-literacy skills are directly linked to higher unemployment, less earned income, and poor health.

**Please invest in adult education at the congressionally authorized level of \$649 million needed to fulfill the goals of the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).**

Please send this message through phone calls, emails, and written letters. Here are some tools to help you in your efforts.

1. Congressional representatives and their contact information.  
<http://www.house.gov/htbin/findrep>

2. Need a phone script, check here: <https://www.proliteracy.org/Get-Involved/Letters-for-Literacy/Phone-Scripts-and-Marketing-Messaging>
3. Send a direct message by visiting [www.educateandelevate.org](http://www.educateandelevate.org). Follow the instructions and link for emailing your congressional representative.
4. To write a physical letter, please check out the letter writing templates at <https://www.proliteracy.org/letters-for-literacy> ProLiteracy has developed templates for teachers, students, and for other advocates to use.
5. To use social media, Facebook, use the bolded message above. On Twitter, please use the following hashtags:
  - **#InvestInMarylandAdultEdu** and tag the representative's handle
  - **#EducateandElevate**
  - **#LettersForLiteracy** to share about the letters you have sent

The MAACCE Advocacy Committee members are available to answer your questions and help with your efforts. Please email [maacce@gmail.com](mailto:maacce@gmail.com) with your questions. Our goal is that each congressional representative will hear from at least 50 people, but of course, more is better!

Thank you for your advocacy! Together, we can make effective change for Adult Education.

Cynthia M. Campbell, EdD  
Chair  
MAACCE Advocacy Committee

