

Representative  
Address

Dear Representative or Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for supporting adult and correctional education in the FY2015 budget. This investment empowers thousands of Maryland adults and out-of-school youth to complete high school diplomas, increase English language and/or basic literacy skills, as well as transition to jobs, job training, and post-secondary education.

In keeping the GED® exam fee affordable, more Marylanders will be able to earn high school diplomas and prepare for jobs. Programs like MI-BEST and Career Pathways equip students for the future. Adult Education and Workforce Literacy Services aid Maryland's economy and families by increasing earnings and reducing recidivism in corrections.

While adult education is well known and appreciated, the scope of what we do is often not as well known. In FY2014,

- state-funded adult education programs served 39,102 students
- classes were provided across the state in all counties and included adult basic education, GED® preparation, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- 1,388 people received their diploma through GED® testing
- students from over 190 different countries were enrolled in ESOL programs

Many of the learners in programs are working multiple jobs and going to school at night or in their spare time. They do this in order to have a future where they can better support their families. These individuals are dedicated, driven and tireless in their goal to improve their literacy levels, education, and lives. Challenges in adult education programs remain. Wait lists for services have risen to 8,000; not enough spaces exist for those in need.

<<< Add your voice/story/paragraph here (optional)/delete this line before sending>>>

In FY2016, please do not cut our funding. As of FY2015, state support for adult education finally managed to match federal dollars. A cut to funding now would increase wait lists. Please continue to make Maryland's successful adult education system a high priority by providing critically-needed funding.

Thank you again for supporting our community,

Your Name

Add your voice to the letter. Legislatures need to hear:

- How literacy has impacted a learner's life – why they joined, experiences in the program, what are they doing now as a result of a program?
- Instructors and staff members – What success have you seen? Why are you working in this field? Is everyone in your area being served or are there wait list?