

Dear Budget Director Francis:

Please accept this budget testimony from Literacy New York, Inc. (LNY) on behalf of the network of forty-one local Literacy Volunteer programs that benefit from the Adult Literacy Education (ALE) state funds.

After eighteen years of being appropriated at or below the original \$3.5 Million of 1988, the New York State Legislature added \$2 Million to ALE in FY 2006-2007. LNY would like to thank Governor Spitzer for including this add in the FY 2007-2008 State Budget and correcting the inadequacy left from the previous year's budget. Fortunately, the Legislature added another \$1 Million in FY 2007-2008. Together, Adult Literacy Education was appropriated at a total of \$6.34 Million as indicated in the Education, Labor and Family Assistance Budget.

Despite this relatively significant increase, the demand for these resources remains well above this appropriation level as evidenced by the response to the recent New York State Education Department's ALE Request for Application (RFA).

I attended the Budget Hearing on Saturday, November 17, 2007, at the Buffalo Museum of Science and heard your presentation on the difficulty New York State is in regarding the FY 2008-2009 budget.

As such, LNY would like to request that you include the full ALE appropriation of \$6.34 M in the FY 2008-2009 budget. Obviously, any additional support is sorely needed and would be greatly appreciated.

I am available to respond to any questions which may clarify our position. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide this input.

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"The only way to help people is to give them a chance to help themselves." Unknown