



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1007

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CLERK'S
OFFICE
MASSACHUSETTS

THOMAS F. BIRMINGHAM
PRESIDENT

December 2001

Ms. D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk
Cambridge City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Drury:

I want to thank you for your interest in the Senate's efforts to restore critical human service programming throughout Massachusetts. I believe that there is no priority more incumbent upon government than ensuring the health and prosperity of its citizens.

I am pleased to inform you that the Senate has funded the Adult Basic Education (ABE) line item in the supplemental budget passed today. The legislature has restored \$12.5 million in direct funding to ABE providers throughout the Commonwealth, exceeding the funding required to secure the federal "Maintenance of Service" match. As a direct result of the Senate's action, full ABE, GED and ESL services are expected to continue throughout the foreseeable future.

I remain committed to ensuring that all of the citizens of the commonwealth receive a quality education. The senate has made great strides to educate our children, as well as adults. I take great institutional pride that the senate has not only fully funded education reform in each year of its existence, but that it has also drastically increased direct aid for ABE providers throughout the past five budget cycles. It is critical that our citizens are given an opportunity to be competitive in the workplace. Without the programs I have mentioned, our students, both young and old, will be without the tools needed for success.

Finally, I want to thank you and others who contacted my office to share personal stories. It was gratifying for me to hear first hand, how ABE services have touched your life, and the lives of so many other citizens.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Birmingham

CM:mh

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Communication #2

A communication was received
from Senate President Thomas F.
Birmingham, regarding funding the
Adult Basic Education.

In City Council January 14, 2002

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