

Note: Please do not use this letter as a template. All letters should be unique. Staffs read our letters for unique stories. Form letters may alienate legislative staffs who try to read and respond to each letter.

131 County Road 102 #A
Athens, Tennessee 37303

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Senator Lamar Alexander
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

The Athens/McMinn County Adult Education Program is really important to me. This program is provided by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Now I sit here writing you to ask one very important favor. Please increase funding and keep supporting the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act.

I urge you to never let funding drop. If you fail to keep this act alive, it would have a devastating affect on my small community and have a tremendous affect on our local economy because these days having a GED or high school diploma is essential to have even at fast food.

Not everyone who once went to school everyday wasted the teacher's time. Life and economic hardships are some things that can have a toll on good students. My farther, the soul provider, died. He was there from the age of 2 till 15; at 16 we left Chicago for Tennessee. There I stepped up and joined the workforce and helped my mom until I moved out.

After being out of school so long and being in a recession, I am tired of putting time in at real nice jobs for them to be outsourced, or they try and promote me and I can't take it because I have no GED as bad as I want to and can do the job. Now I'm on unemployment and decided to take classes to go for my goal of furthering my education, and I am taking full advantage of this program. And from what I see those that have the courage to come are benefitting from this act also.

Another reason to increase the funds are the honest, hard working, very loyal and patient instructors we have who never give up on any of us no matter how hard the task of raising the comprehension skills in Language, Science, Social Studies, and last but not least that monster Math.

In all, I'm not only asking for me and my classmates but the hundreds who will grace the warm, calming, and exciting new world that these doors provide. The Adult Education and Family Literacy Act is significantly important to McMinn County and nationwide. It's never too late to learn.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Johnson
Athens/McMinn Adult Education Student

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3341 Highway 39W
Athens, Tennessee 37303

March 17, 2009

The Honorable Senator Bob Corker
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Corker:

In 1970, I entered the workforce going from one small sewing factory to another. In 1977, I was hired at a very large chemical plant at entry level. As a single parent, I bought a car, home, and even managed to save some money for retirement. At the end of my third child's high school graduation, I was permanently laid off after sixteen years. I had managed to acquire jobs over the years only to continually be laid off.

I came to the Adult Education program to update my skills to get back into the workforce and keep a positive attitude. Due to the fact that I have been in manufacturing, jobs have changed, and I need to change with them. Coming to the Adult Education program allows me to get the basics of education which is essential to today's workforce. Please consider those like me and others who are out of step with technology and the educational system.

Please continue to fund and support the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. **I am not looking for a handout, but a hand up.** I thank you for taking the time to read this letter, and look forward to continuing my education to make this world a better place. God Bless America!

Sincerely,

Gloria Arnwine
Athens/McMinn Adult Education Student

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1721 Hammerhill Road
Athens, Tennessee 37303

March 18, 2009

The Honorable Representative John J. Duncan, Jr.
2207 Rayburn Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Duncan:

Hello, I am enrolled in the adult education program which is provided by the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. I like going to this class because I am given the chance to obtain my G.E.D., which in turn gives me more employment opportunities, a chance to receive a secondary education, and many other endless possibilities.

Unfortunately, when I went to school the first go around, I opted to make the choice of quitting. I now have the chance to complete something that I started many years ago; however, I recently learned that it could possibly be coming at an end. I know the financial strain is taking its toll on many government entities and causing funds to be depleted. I feel that if this program comes to an end, thousands of people will be affected in a negative way. Not only are we learning educationally, but we are also learning the necessities that we will need in the workplace of our choosing.

I know I am only one person, but I pray that my voice will be heard as a multitude when I ask that you please not end or decrease the funding for the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act. Thank you for allowing me to take up a little of your time as I know it is very important.

Sincerely,

James Scudder
Athens/McMinn Adult Education Student