



July 21, 2025

2441 Rayburn House Office Building  
45 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mrvan:

Indiana's Skills2Compete Coalition brings together a bipartisan group of state legislators as well as education, business, labor, and non-profit leaders with the aim of developing a skilled workforce. Talent development that unlocks access to good jobs and meets employers' labor needs is the cornerstone of a thriving economy; accordingly, **we urge you to work with the White House and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to immediately release the adult education funding that was unexpectedly withheld from states.**

Adult education sets Hoosiers on a path to self-sufficiency and job readiness. It also:

- **Increases participation in High School Equivalency (HSE) programs and postsecondary education;** in other words, it is the stepping stone to education pathways that prepare Hoosiers for the job market and help them lift themselves out of poverty.
- **Supports the college and career readiness of the next generation.** One in six Hoosier adults has less than a 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading and writing proficiency, affecting parents' ability to support their children's education. In fact, children whose parents struggle with literacy are 72% more likely to struggle with literacy themselves.
- **Reduces demand for social services** such as nutrition assistance, housing, and health care while increasing tax revenue as income increases, with some estimates suggesting a \$10,000 increase in annual income for participants who attend 100 or more hours of instruction.

Indiana receives just under \$12 million in federal funding for adult education, which is 40% of its adult education budget, and it achieves an incredible return on investment with these funds:

- Last year, adult education providers served 27,250 students
- Adult education students earned 4,000 HSE diplomas
- Across all adult education students, the average wage increase was \$5,000; diploma recipients received an \$8,900 average wage increase

Cutting these funds will reduce the number of students served by nearly 11,000 – a \$55 million economic loss for our state. Rural communities will be hit hardest due to the complete loss of smaller adult education providers, while surviving providers in more populated areas will be unable to effectively serve all students.

**Your leadership on adult education access is critical.** Please protect the opportunity and mobility of hard-working adult learners by urging the immediate release of these funds.


Sincerely,



**State Representative Edward D. Clere**



**State Senator Fady Qaddoura**



**Erin Macey, Director**  
Indiana Community Action Poverty Institute



**Peggy Frame, Executive Director**  
Southeast Community Services



**Sam Charron, Vice President - Government Affairs**  
Indiana Manufacturers Association



**Marie Mackintosh, President & CEO**  
EmployIndy



**Sam Snideman, Vice President of Government Relations**  
United Way of Central Indiana

*Ruba Marshood*

**Ruba Marshood, CEO**

IndyReads



**Kim Dodson, Chief Executive Officer**

The Arc of Indiana

*Emily Bryant*

**Emily Bryant, Executive Director**

Feeding Indiana's Hungry

*Kathryn Clayton*

**Kathryn Clayton, Executive Director**

Labor Institute for Training

*Paul Sammons*

**Paul Sammons, Director of Strategic Collaboration and Chief Court Liaison**

RecycleForce



**Brett Voorhies, President**

Indiana AFL-CIO

*Vanessa Green Sindors*

**Vanessa Green Sindors, President & CEO**

Indiana Chamber of Commerce