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I am Kate Nicolet, from Montpelier, affiliated with Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, serving the 47 towns in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties.

Please support the statewide Adult Education and Literacy provider network with an appropriation of \$350,000 for fiscal year 2022 to address budget deficits due to COVID.

The Adult Education and Literacy providers serve adults in Vermont who need help with basic skills in order to access other educational or career opportunities. The Adult Education and Literacy Network has not received any additional financial support from the state during the entire COVID-19 pandemic.

Adult Education and Literacy providers offer a broad range of services that are targeted, tailored and relevant to each student's goals and needs.

For example, the Adult Education and Literacy providers are the only providers of the free instruction that adult learners need to complete their high school diplomas or GED, to learn English as new Vermonters, and to learn the basic computer skills used to navigate websites, apply for jobs, sign up for essential services like COVID testing, and the like. We do this with skill and passion, and our students are at the center of our work.

As a result, adult learners throughout the state meet their goals to improve their academic skills, get a credential, find work, go to college, and participate in community life.

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Thank you for your time and attention.