

The TUTORIAL CENTER, INC.

Good morning. My name is Sean-Marie Oller. I live in Bennington, Vermont, and I work at The Tutorial Center, an adult education and literacy provider serving Bennington County.

I am testifying today to ask you to 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 reading, writing, and math in order to access other educational or career opportunities. The AEL Network has not to date received *any additional* financial support from the state during the entire COVID-19 pandemic.

We know that increasing literacy, reading, writing and math skills, opens up opportunities for people, including better jobs, furthering their education or developing new job skills, having a better family life, and being able to do basic tasks for themselves.'

Tutorial Center students have come to us so they can earn their high school diploma in order to get a promotion at MACK Molding, a large manufacturing co, in Southern VT or to enter the military, or become a supervisor at Walmart. We help these students with their basic skills and we also connect them with services to help them maintain their housing or connect them to childcare. Without adult learning centers, Vermonters without a high school diploma have very few options to earn their diploma or improve their skills, which can lead to better lives for them and their families.

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.

Thank you for listening.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions

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