



February 8, 2022

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Good evening. I am Katherine Stamper and I live in Burlington. I am the Development & Communications Director of Vermont Adult Learning which serves seven of Vermont's fourteen counties—Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Addison, Rutland, Windsor and Windham.

I am here to ask you to support the statewide Adult Education and Literacy provider network with an additional appropriation of \$1.4 million in FY2023 to address both historic underfunding and ongoing expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

Increasing literacy in reading, writing and/or math opens up opportunities for students, 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.

My parents---refugees from Nazism and Communism---benefited from adult education programming when they arrived in the U.S. Two battered suitcases, one from Bergen Belsen and the other from Stalinist Poland, carried the work ethic and educational aspirations needed to foster stability and socioeconomic advancement for my family.

An educated workforce is an employed workforce. Please support the statewide Adult Education and Literacy provider network with an additional appropriation of \$1.4 million in FY2023 to address both historic underfunding and ongoing expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

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77 College Street
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802-846-7245

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16 Evelyn St., Ste. 101
Rutland, VT 05701
802-775-0617

Windsor County
225 Maple Street, Unit 6
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**Addison County /
Central Office**
99 Maple Street, #18
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Franklin & Grand Isle
5 Lemnah Dr., Ste. 5
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