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Good afternoon House and Senate Appropriations Committees. I am Marty Feltus from Lyndon, Vermont. As a former member of your hard working group I understand the importance of your holding this public hearing and, I also know and appreciate that you will carefully consider the comments from all those that testify.

I'm here today in support of the Adult Education and Literacy Network. Not in support of a specific budget line item, but rather in support of legislative changes that will be proposed in the miscellaneous Ed bill. These changes relate to the definitions and funding streams for our Adult Education services. The changes that are recommended by the Adult Education and Literacy High School Completion Student Access Report (as required in last year's budget) are important to the Appropriations Committee because their adoption will result in a much more streamlined delivery process of the services AND implementation of a fixed funding mechanism. I recall in the years I served on the Appropriations Committee there was always confusion and concern regarding the stability and sufficiency of the funding streams for this important work. The changes being proposed will result in a fixed revenue formula that will yield approximately \$6.3 million each year versus the current disparate funding streams that have variable and uncertain yields. And, as we all know, having stability in financial resources leads to better planning in delivering services.

In my retirement from the Legislature, I have joined the board of the Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, one of the organizations in the network. I have seen first hand how many of the students in my area use the services offered by NEKLS to help them qualify for one of the numerous workforce training programs Vermont has initiated in recent years. Without the basic building blocks offered by Adult Education they would not be able to participate and thereby improve not only their own livelihoods, but also the diversity of workforce needed in our state.

As you consider the FY 25 budget, I hope you see this modest change in program definition and funding stream for the Adult Education and Literacy Network to be one of those "no brainer" decisions that will help us all.