

Dear Chair Campion and the Senate Education Committee,

Last week, the Agency of Education proposed a variety of recommended changes to H.874. The Adult Education and Literacy Network has reviewed these changes, and we would like to share our thoughts regarding the recommended changes to the bill's language to help move the bill forward:

- **Recommendation #1: Maintain "which shall be an assessment program" in Sec. 1(a).**
The AELN does not have a problem with this recommendation. The language was struck because it seemed weird to describe a whole program, which uses assessments as an evaluation tool, as "an assessment program", but we do not have specific concerns about this language and we think it is fine to accommodate this recommendation.
- **Recommendation #2: Strike the language about conditioning payments in Sec. 1(d).**
The AELN agrees that assessments must be used to calculate the number of students in the program. However, this language was intended to ensure that funding to AEL providers is not conditioned on students *earning a specific score on the test*, which happens in current practice and was the primary equity piece discussed in the summer committee. We are fine with changing the language to be more clear that assessments are still necessary, but we want to ensure that test SCORES cannot be used to determine funding levels. We propose the following language to accomplish that:

(d) The diagnostic portion of the Program referenced in subsection 4011(f) of this title shall be used as a tool to evaluate the educational needs of and skills gained by individual students. The diagnostic information gained from the assessment portion of the Program, including individual test scores, shall not be used to exclude individuals from the Program or to condition payments to local education and literacy providers.

I have attached a memo here that further explains the testing issue, if you are interested in a deeper dive (this is an older memo with an outdated budget request, but the information regarding HSCP testing is still accurate and relevant).

Thanks,

Brian Kravitz, Director of Outreach and Workforce Development