**Kravitz AELN Budget Testimony, 2/13/25**

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Good afternoon, my name is Brian Kravitz a resident of Waterbury. I am the Director of Outreach and Workforce Development at Central Vermont Adult Education, and I am testifying on behalf of Vermont’s Adult Education and Literacy Network.

We request that you fully fund AEL services according to the funding calculation in statute. AEL funding is now based on a 2-year student average, and for FY26 we are using FY’s 23 and 24 numbers, which is 2,003 students. This is also the final # being used in FY25. The Agency appears to have budgeted the same amount for AEL in FY26 as FY25 before the BAA, which is incorrect according to the funding calculation. We recently rectified this in the FY25 BAA.

Further, the statute requires that the AEL per student amount is based on 26% of the per student Base Education Amount for each fiscal year. In its FY26 calculation, the Governor’s recommended budget used the same cost for FY26 as it did for FY25. Although the BEA is actually lower for FY26 than FY25, it’s imperative that we follow statute.

As per the statute, we request the AELN budget to be based on 26% of Base Education Amount of $12,668 Multiplied by 2003 students, equaling $6,597,241.04, and not the $6,296,888 in the Governor’s recommended budget.

As our student numbers continue to grow it is imperative that we receive full funding so we can continue to provide literacy, workforce development, and college readiness to our most vulnerable Vermonters.

Please fully fund adult education and honor the legislative changes made last year by funding AELN based on the true 2-year student average multiplied by 26% the FY26 Base Education amount, which equals *$6,597,241.04.*