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2/3/21

Rep. Jim Davnie

443 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Rep. Davnie:

We are writing in support of the Governor's budget proposal funding expansion of ABE programming for the summer of 2021 via a one-time \$10 M allocation (and if funding remains available, it can be used through fiscal year 2022) in order to build and help sustain enhanced programming year-around.

You have long understood the crucial role adult education plays in helping lower-skilled adults master new skills related to employment, civic participation and daily life. The past year, during which the pandemic has forced all adult education online, has both increased need and decreased access to crucial education services for many Minnesotans. Lack of adequate internet access, devices, and digital literacy skills have created barriers for many to access the training, skills, and support needed to survive in a time of severe economic stress. The additional funding proposed by Governor Walz will help programs in communities across Minnesota provide digital support and resources essential to achieving educational goals. We hope and trust you will support this allocation.

Finally, we want to thank you thank you for your past support for Adult Education, and for your continued advocacy on behalf of increasing teachers of color in our state. It is essential that adult education include professional staff who look like, and share common experiences with, those they teach.

Thank you,

Susan Wetenkamp-Brandt
President, LAN

John Ashby
Legislative Chair, LAN

CC Sherry Munyon
Tom Cytron-Hysom