



## Legislation Text

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### Res. No. 584

Resolution calling upon the New York State Education Department to restore funding for the New York City Adult Literacy Initiative program of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

By Council Members Nelson, Comrie, Dickens, Fidler, Foster, Gentile, Gerson, James, Liu, Mealy, Palma, Sears, Weprin, White Jr., Jackson and Gennaro

Whereas, According to the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) Literacy Programs Overview (the “Overview”), one in three New York City residents are immigrants, many of whom face challenges in securing jobs or in succeeding in school due to limited English proficiency; and

Whereas, The Overview also indicates that 25 percent of New Yorkers 25 years of age and older do not have a high school diploma or its equivalent, a basic requirement for many entry-level employment positions and post-secondary educational opportunities; and

Whereas, According to New York State Education Commissioner Richard Mills, the adult literacy problem in New York is “quite serious...[and] New Yorkers in the 29 to 35 year-old age group are significantly below their national peers. That’s a serious problem because the demands of the workplace are rapidly evolving...When literacy skills are weak, that’s a real drain on the work force.” and

Whereas, Effective communication skills are essential to the ability to successfully participate in and contribute to the social, economic and political life of the City; and

Whereas, To meet the City’s literacy needs, the DYCD runs many programs designed to teach literacy skills to New York City residents; and

Whereas, Part of the funding for such programs comes from the New York State Department of Education (the “State Education Department”); and

Whereas, According to DYCD, the agency will lose approximately \$5.7 million of Federal Title 2 literacy funds previously allocated through the New York State Education Department; and

Whereas, DYCD believes this situation will result in \$6.4 million in programmatic cuts being made to this vital adult literacy program in view of the fact that such funding was previously accompanied by a City matching grant; and

Whereas, This severe loss of adequate funding for the New York City Adult Literacy Initiative, cut by the State Education Department, threatens the existence and continuity of these and other vital literacy programs; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Education Department to restore funding for the New York City Adult Literacy Initiative Program of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development.

MB  
LS# 1430  
9/28/06