



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Contact:
Laura Castelli
518-689-7223 (work)
518-225-8993 (cell)
lcastelli@comingplace.com

**Assemblyman Hoyt to Join Buffalo and Erie County Literacy Advocates
Group to Hold a Press Conference to Denounce State Budget Cuts**

Buffalo, N.Y. – Advocating on behalf of New York State’s adult literacy programs, local electeds, students, volunteer tutors and administrators from Western New York will hold a press conference to oppose the proposed devastating state budget cuts.

Details of the press conference are as follows:

Who: Literacy New York (LNY)
Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo and Erie County
Literacy Volunteers of Niagara County

Where: Central Library in Downtown Buffalo
1 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203

When: Thursday, April 15, 2010
10:30 a.m.

The current state budget proposals would cut more than \$2 million – or about one-third of all state funding – to literacy assistance programs across New York. This cut is in addition to a \$612,000 cut under the 2009-10 Deficit Reduction Plan (DRP). With last year’s DRP reduction of funding, literacy programs throughout the state are now faced with a nearly 40 percent potential cut from last year’s funding level.

“Twenty-two percent of New Yorkers are below basic literacy level,” said Kevin Smith, executive director of Literacy New York. “And every year thousands of New Yorkers volunteer their time to help others learn how to read and become less dependent. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the value of their contributed volunteer time would have been approximately \$6.5 million. We understand these are tough times; we are not asking for what our program is worth, only enough so our doors don’t have to close.”

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Since 1977, Literacy New York (LNY) has been a leading advocate for adult literacy in New York State and nationally. Literacy New York provides technical, program, and training assistance and workshops to a network of 37 local, community-based affiliates who annually provide over 400,000 hours of reading and basic skills instruction to adult learners.

Literacy Volunteers of Buffalo & Erie County is a nonprofit educational program dedicated to helping adults and families of all ages improve their lives and their communities by learning reading, writing, math and problem-solving skills. Literacy Volunteers is the region’s sole provider of free, one-on-one adult and family literacy services and offers several programs: Basic Reading, English For Speakers of Other Languages, the Drop In Literacy & Language Program, the Broadway Fillmore Community Technology Collaborative youth after school project, SES (Supplemental Afterschool Services) Tutoring, and Peer Tutoring. We have recently expanded our service delivery to include several neighborhood based Literacy & Language Drop In Centers in the City of Buffalo’s most impoverished neighborhoods.