

NEWPORT-MESA'S SAVE ADULT EDUCATION ACTION TEMPLATE

(The following actions taken on behalf of the Newport-Mesa Adult Education Program can be adopted by other districts)

FEDERAL LEVEL

- **Legally:** A discrimination complaint was filed with the Office of Civil Rights.
- **Politically:** Letters were sent to President Obama and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi explaining that a vital pathway for training legal immigrants and providing citizenship is through adult education.
- **Financially:** We need to encourage our legislators to channel monies for adult students directly to adult education programs, not through community colleges who cannot address the majority of the students' needs.
- **Also Contacted:**
Sen. Dianne Feinstein
Sen. Barbara Boxer
Local Congressmen

STATE LEVEL

- **Legally:** A discrimination complaint was filed with the ACLU and advice was obtained from legal counsel confirming discrimination had taken place. According to California Ed. Code 42605, school districts, in reallocating or cutting funds, must not disparately impact protected classes (classes of age, disability, national origin, ethnicity). We believe that given the severe cuts to adult education, these "protected classes" of students have been unfairly discriminated against.
- **Politically & Financially:** A state proposition needs to be formulated and signatures procured for a ballot measure to separate adult education funding from K-12 (in talks).
- **Also Contacted:**
State Superintendent's Office
State Assembly/Senate Reps

LOCAL LEVEL

- **Politically:** Letters were sent and phone calls were made to school board members, local chambers of commerce, city council members, and local news media in support of adult education. In addition, a petition drive was organized, as well as a town hall meeting to inform the public of adult education cuts.
- **Financially:** Local businesses and other entities were encouraged to support adult education by writing or speaking to the school board. The importance of vocational training and high school completion, especially in this economy, were emphasized as business leaders were talked to one-on-one.