



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Albany Gets a Visit from Capital District Adult Literacy Students**

Albany, N.Y. –Students, volunteer tutors and administrators from adult literacy programs throughout the Capital District will converge at the State Capitol to show their support for the program and call on state lawmakers to restore funding to the statewide Adult Literacy Education (ALE) program.

*Details of the press conference are as follows:*

**Who:** Literacy New York (LNY)  
Literacy New York – Greater Capital Region\*  
Literacy Volunteers of Fulton  
Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer  
Literacy Volunteers of Schoharie

**Where:** West Side of the Capitol;  
Steps in front of Alfred E. Smith Building  
Albany

**When:** April 8, 2010  
11:30 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.”

\* Literacy New York – Greater Capital Region consists of the following five counties: Albany, Schenectady, Saratoga, Washington and Warren County.

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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.*