Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 8, 2012

Dear Colleague,

We would like to extend an invitation to join the Congressional Adult Literacy Caucus. For millions of adults across the country, improving basic literacy skills is the key to a bright and successful future. Literacy transforms lives, breaking cycles of illiteracy, poverty, and social injustice.

The 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy found that there are approximately 93 million adults in the United States who do not have the literacy skills needed to reach their full potential. Thirty million of those individuals have such low levels of literacy that it significantly impedes their ability to fully function at home, at work, and in their communities. Many live in poverty, lack a high school diploma, and struggle to find and retain living wage jobs. Children of parents with lower literacy levels start school at a disadvantage. This inequality can continue well into a child's education and into their later years. Nearly half of the adults in our great nation have difficulty understanding and using health information, impeding their ability to make appropriate health decisions and increasing the likelihood that they will incur higher health care costs. Additionally, nearly 800 million adults worldwide are illiterate in their native languages; two-thirds of these are women.

In recognition of the vital role literacy plays in improving lives, the Congressional Adult Literacy Caucus aims to bring attention to this issue and promote local, national, and global adult literacy initiatives. We hope you will join in me in this important endeavor. If you are interested in joining the Adult Literacy Caucus, please contact Tiffany McGuffee (Tiffany.McGuffee@mail.house.gov) with Congressman Roe or Rosa Garcia (rosa.garcia@mail.house.gov) with Congressman Hinojosa.

Sincerely

Phil Roe
Member of Congress

Ruben Hinojosa
Member of Congress

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