

**Jackie Taylor**

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**Subject:** FW: Join the Congressional Adult Literacy Caucus!

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**From:** e-Dear Colleague  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 31, 2013 4:47 PM  
**To:** Martin, John (Roe)  
**Subject:** Join the Congressional Adult Literacy Caucus!

The Dear Colleague below will be sent to the General Dear Colleagues group for those people interested in Civil Rights, Education, Family Issues.

## **Join the Congressional Adult Literacy Caucus!**

**From:** The Honorable David P. Roe  
**Sent By:** [john.martin@mail.house.gov](mailto:john.martin@mail.house.gov)  
**Date:** 1/31/2013

January 31, 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 adult literacy initiatives. We hope you will join in me in this important endeavor. If you are interested in joining the caucus, please contact John Martin (Roe) at [john.martin@mail.house.gov](mailto:john.martin@mail.house.gov) or Rosa Garcia (Hinojosa) at [rosa.garcia@mail.house.gov](mailto:rosa.garcia@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,

Phil Roe, M.D.

Member of Congress

Rubén Hinojosa

Member of Congress