



## U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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### **Senate Appropriations Committee Clears Fiscal 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Funding Legislation**

Washington, D.C. . Today, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee approved fiscal year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies legislation aimed at investing in some of the nation's most important education, workforce, science, and technology projects. The Committee provides \$154.9 billion, which is \$9.5 billion over President Bush's request, for programs that offer real dividends for America's future.

"This legislation is an aggressive effort to place real dollars in programs that are vital to strengthening the foundation of this country," Senate Appropriations Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said. "When it comes to investing in America, the President's Budget is anemic. His request would cut funding for our children, for the elderly, for health care, and for job training. This is nothing new. He has called an increase for programs in this bill, 'excessive and irresponsible.' Well, there are consequences for failing to invest in America. This Committee will not look the other way. We will look forward. I thank Chairman Harkin and Senator Specter for putting together a responsible, bipartisan bill that fills critical gaps in the President's request."

"The choices we made today will reap benefits for generations of Americans. We made investments in cancer research and special education and took steps to reduce the backlog at the Social Security Administration and prepare for a pandemic flu outbreak," Subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, said. "The bill supports the National Institutes of Health with \$30 billion for life-saving biomedical research, invests more than \$2 billion for high quality community health centers, and includes modest but greatly needed increases for special education, nursing education, and Head Start. We also provide for American workers by increasing funding for job training, mine safety, and workplace safety. We have crafted a bipartisan bill that, I believe, reflects the real priorities and values of the American people. I thank Senator Byrd for supporting our proposal and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make these goals a reality."

#### **Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies legislation highlights:**

##### **Labor**

**Job Training** ó The Committee legislation provides more than **\$2.9 billion** for state grants for job training, an increase of \$25 million over last year and \$499 million over the budget request. In addition, the bill includes more than **\$1.6 billion** for the Office of Job Corps, an increase of

\$40 million over the fiscal year 2008 level and \$85 million more than the President's budget request.

**Worker Protection** – The Committee legislation provides more than **\$851 million** to ensure the health and safety of workers, including **\$504 million** for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and **\$346 million** for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). This total is an increase of \$33.7 million above the fiscal year 2008 level.

**Child Labor** – The Committee bill includes more than **\$86 million** for activities designed to end abusive child labor, a \$5 million increase from the fiscal year 2008 level.

**Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)** – The Committee provides more than **\$346 million** for MSHA, an increase of nearly \$15 million over last year and \$14.8 million more than the budget request. The recommendation includes close to \$154.5 million for coal enforcement, an approximately \$10.5 million increase over the fiscal year 2008 level. These funds will support implementation of the MINER Act and provides sufficient resources for MSHA to conduct 100 percent of mandatory health and safety inspections. It also includes \$2 million for MSHA to conduct spot inspections related to coal dust levels in active sections of mines.

In addition to coal enforcement, the recommendation provides **\$3.5 million** for infrastructure improvements at the National Mine Safety and Health Academy, which is \$2 million more than the budget request.

**National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** – The Committee includes \$50 million for mine safety research and \$641,000 for the Miner's Choice health screening program.

## **Health and Human Services**

**National Institutes of Health (NIH)** – More than **\$30.2 billion** is included to fund biomedical research at the 27 Institutes and Centers that comprise the NIH. This is a \$1.025 billion increase over the fiscal year 2008 level and the budget request.

**Health Centers** – The bill includes more than **\$2.2 billion** for health centers, a \$150 million increase over the fiscal 2008 level.

**Nursing Education** – The bill includes more than **\$167 million** for nursing education, which is an increase of more than \$11.6 million over the fiscal year 2008 level.

**Autism** – The bill includes more than **\$63 million** for prevention of and support for families affected by autism and other related developmental disorders. This is an increase of more than \$9.8 million over fiscal year 2008.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** – The bill includes more than **\$6.5 billion** for CDC, which is an increase of over \$76 million from the fiscal year 2008 level.

**Colorectal Cancer** – The bill provides more than **\$38 million** for colorectal cancer prevention efforts. Included in this amount is \$25 million to establish a national surveillance campaign, with grants to local communities to support colorectal screenings and polyp removal for low-income individuals.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health** ó The bill provides more than **\$3.3 billion** for substance abuse and mental health programs. Included in this amount is more than \$2.1 billion for substance abuse treatment, more than \$191 million for substance abuse prevention and more than \$930 million for mental health programs.

**Pandemic Influenza** – The bill provides **\$507 million** to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. Funds are available for the development and purchase of vaccine, antivirals, necessary medical supplies, diagnostics, and other surveillance tools.

**Alcohol Abuse Reduction Program** – The bill provides **\$33 million** for alcohol abuse reduction. This is an increase of \$577,000 over the fiscal year 2008 level. The budget request proposed eliminating this program.

**Senior Nutrition** – The bill includes more than **\$801 million** for senior nutrition programs, including congregate meals and meals-on-wheels. The increase of more than \$43 million over the fiscal year 2008 level will help local programs cope with rapidly rising transportation and food prices.

**Head Start** – The bill includes **\$7.1 billion** for the Head Start Program. This represents an increase of more than \$223 million over the fiscal year 2008 level.

## **Education**

**Title I (Education)** – The bill includes more than **\$14.5 billion** for Title I grants to LEAs, an increase of more than \$631 million over the fiscal year 2008 level, and more than \$491 million for school improvement grants.

**Student Financial Aid** – The bill includes more than **\$18 billion** for student financial assistance and the maximum discretionary Pell Grant Program award level is increased to \$4,310. This funding, combined with mandatory funding provided in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, would increase the maximum award to \$4,800 for the 2009/2010 school year. The Committee bill includes \$70 million for Federal Perkins loan cancellations, an increase of more than \$5.6 million over fiscal year 2008.

**Higher Education Initiatives** – The bill provides more than \$1.8 billion for initiatives to provide greater opportunities for higher education, including: more than \$838 million for Federal TRIO programs, and more than \$308 million for GEAR UP. The bill also provides more than \$47 million for Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants, an increase of \$13.9 million over the fiscal year 2008 level.

**Education for Individuals with Disabilities** – The bill provides more than **\$12 billion** to help ensure that all children have access to a free and appropriate education. This amount includes more than \$11 billion for Part B grants to States, an increase of \$477 million over fiscal year 2008, and \$140 million more than the budget request.

**Rehabilitation Services** ó The bill includes more than **\$3.38 billion** for rehabilitation services. These funds are essential for families with disabilities seeking employment. The Committee restored funding for several important programs proposed for elimination, such as Supported Employment State Grants, Projects with Industry, Recreational programs and programs for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, and rejected the Department of Education's proposal to freeze State grant funding at the fiscal year 2008 level.

**Teaching American History** – The bill provides **\$120 million** for teaching of traditional American history. This is an increase of more than \$2 million over the fiscal year 2008 level and \$70 million over the budget request.

### **Related Agencies**

**Corporation for Public Broadcasting** – The bill provides an advance appropriation for fiscal year 2011 of **\$430 million** for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In addition, the Committee bill includes more than \$29 million for conversion to digital broadcasting and more than \$26 million for the replacement project of the interconnection system in fiscal year 2009 funding.

**Social Security Administration (SSA)** ó **\$10.4 billion** is included for the administrative expenses of the SSA, \$50 million over the President's budget request and \$632 million more than fiscal year 2008, to continue efforts to reduce the backlog of disability claims.

### **Elimination of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse**

For fiscal year 2009, the Committee has increased funding for a variety of activities aimed at reducing fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer dollars. These program integrity initiatives have been shown to be a wise investment of Federal dollars resulting in billions of dollars of savings from Federal entitlement programs--unemployment insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, and Social Security.

- **Unemployment Insurance Program Integrity** ó The Committee includes \$50 million, an increase of \$40 million to conduct eligibility reviews of claimants of Unemployment Insurance. This increase will save an estimated \$200 million annually in inappropriate Unemployment Insurance payments.
- **Social Security Program Integrity** ó The Committee bill includes **\$504 million** for conducting continuing disability reviews [CDRs] and redeterminations of eligibility for Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits. CDRs save \$10 in benefit payments for every \$1 spent to conduct these activities, while redeterminations save \$7 in payments for every \$1 for doing this work.
- **Health Care Program Integrity** - In fiscal year 2006, Medicare and Medicaid outlays accounted for nearly \$1 out of every \$5 of the total Federal outlays. Fraud committed against Federal health care programs puts Americans at increased risk and diverts critical resources from providing necessary health services to some of the Nation's most vulnerable populations.
- The Committee bill includes **\$198 million** for Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) activities at the **Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services**. No discretionary funds were provided for this activity in fiscal year 2008.
- Investment in health care program integrity more than pays for itself based on 10 years of documented recoveries to the **Medicare Part A Trust Fund**. The historical return on investment for the life of the Medicare Integrity program has been about 13 to 1.