



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Conferees Approve Labor, HHS, Education Spending Bill

Washington, D.C. –Senate and House of Representatives conferees today approved the Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies FY 2006 Appropriations bill. The bill includes spending for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, as well as the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Social Security Administration.

A previously approved conference report did not pass the House of Representatives last month. This conference agreement provides an additional \$28 million in rural outreach grants and \$8.8 million for rural health research. Area health education centers will receive \$26.9 million more than previously allotted, for a total of \$28.9 million. Training in primary care medicine and dentistry will now receive \$41.2 million, an increase of over \$13 million from the initial FY 2006 conference report. Faculty loan repayment and scholarships for disadvantaged students will also receive a slight increase. Additionally, the provision to eliminate erectile dysfunction was removed. Savings were achieved in the bill through reductions to PHSSEF and CMS administrative costs.

Bill Highlights:

FY 2005 Funding Level: \$143.463 billion

FY 2006 President's Request: \$141.919 billion

FY 2006 Senate Approved: \$145.693 billion

FY 2006 Conference Agreement: \$142.514 billion

Labor Programs

Dislocated Workers – The Conference report recommends \$1.476 billion, the same amount as the FY 2005 enacted level, and \$132.5 million over the Administration's request. States may use these funds for rapid response assistance to help workers affected by mass layoffs and plant closures.

Community College Initiative – The Conference report includes \$125 million for the community college initiative, which is equal to the House-passed bill.

Job Training – The Conference report contains \$5.115 billion for this nation's job training programs. The bill includes: \$865.7 million for adult job training, \$80.6 million for the migrant and seasonal farm worker program, \$950 million for youth training, and \$69.4 million for ex-offender programs.

Job Corps – The Conference report increases Job Corps by \$21.1 million for a total of \$1.573 billion.

Child Labor – The Conference report includes \$73.2 million for the International Labor Affairs Bureau.

Worker Protection Programs – The bill includes \$280.5 million for mine safety, \$477.2 million for OSHA, and \$252.3 million for the National Labor Relations Board, \$415.2 million for employment standards, and \$134.9 million for employee benefits security, for a total increase of \$35 million over last year.

HHS Programs

Community Health Centers -- \$1.8 billion, which is \$66 million over last year. These centers provide critical health care services to underserved and uninsured people throughout America.

Pediatric Graduate Medical Education -- \$300 million, an increase of \$100 million over the President's request.

Health Professions – The bill includes \$248.6 million for Health Professions programs, an increase of \$88 million over the President's request.

National Institutes of Health – The Conference report includes \$28.617 billion, an increase of \$253 million over the FY 2005 appropriation and \$107.7 million over the President's budget request.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Buildings and Facilities – The Conference report includes \$130 million over the budget request, for a total of \$160 million.

Pandemic Flu – The bill includes \$120 million, an increase of \$20.8 million over last year, to ensure that an adequate supply of vaccine would be available in the event of a severe flu outbreak.

Global AIDS – The bill includes \$100 million for the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS/TB. In addition, \$123 million is included in CDC for global HIV/AIDS/TB activities.

Family Planning – \$286 million, the same amount as the President's budget.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP) – The Conference report includes \$2.183 billion for LIHEAP, \$183 million more than the budget request.

Ryan White AIDS Programs – \$2.083 billion for the Ryan White AIDS programs, \$10 million more than last year's budget.

Family Caregivers – The Conference report includes \$164 million for family caregivers, an increase of \$2 million above last year.

Head Start – \$6.854 billion for Head Start.

Community Services Block Grant – The Conference report restores the \$636.8 million for the Community Services Block Grant. This program was proposed for elimination in the President's budget.

Abstinence Education Programs – \$114.5 million, an increase of \$10.8 million over the FY 2005 appropriation.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services – The bill provides \$3.359 billion, an increase of \$23.1 million more than the budget request. SAMHSA is responsible for supporting mental health programs and alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and treatment services throughout the country.

Health Information Technology – The bill provides \$61.7 million, an increase of \$40.4 million over the FY 2005 level.

Embryo Adoption – The bill provides \$2 million for an embryo adoption awareness campaign, an increase of \$1 million over the FY2005 level.

Education Programs

Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) – \$12.840 billion, an increase of \$100 million over the FY 2005 bill, for the key federal program supporting the No Child Left Behind Act. At this proposed level, funding will have increased by 46.6% since the Act was passed.

Reading Programs – \$1.146 billion for programs that are designed to ensure all children are reading by the end of 3rd grade, and a \$30 million program to help improve the literacy skills of teenagers struggling to read. Total funding for reading programs is \$5.2 million more than last year.

Teacher Quality State Grants – \$2.916 billion to supports state and local efforts to ensure that “highly qualified” teachers are available to help all children succeed academically.

Teacher Incentive Fund -- \$100 million for a new initiative to develop and implement innovative performance-based compensation systems for teachers and principals who raise student academic achievement.

English Language Acquisition – \$675.8 million to help improve academic achievement of limited English proficient students and to develop the capacity of school districts to enable such students to learn English.

Advanced Placement – \$32.5 million, an increase of \$2.7 million over FY 2005 to expose low-income students to more challenging curriculum.

Math and Science Partnerships -- \$184 million, an increase of \$5.4 million, to improve math and science achievement of students.

Rural Education – \$170.6 million for additional assistance for rural school districts, the same as the FY’05 level.

Foreign Language Assistance -- \$22 million, an increase of \$4.1 million over the FY05 funding level, to help schools initiate or expand foreign language instruction.

Ready to Learn -- \$24.5 million, an increase of \$1.2 million, to improve literacy and school readiness of children through programming and community-based local outreach.

Special Education Grants to States – \$10.690 billion, an increase of \$100 million over the FY 2005 level.

Pell Grants – \$13.177 billion, an increase of \$812 million over FY 2005, to support the Pell Grants program. Funding supports a maximum grant of \$4,050, the same as last year. Pell grants provide need-based grant aid to help more than 5 million low- and middle-income undergraduate students and their families pay the costs of postsecondary education and vocational training. The Conference report also includes an additional \$4.3 billion to pay off the estimated shortfall in the program.

TRIO –TRIO funding has been maintained at the FY 2005 level of \$836.5 million.

The Senate bill also restores funding to some of the education programs eliminated in the President’s budget, including:

Perkins Career and Technical Education – \$1.309 billion to support local career and technical education programs.

GEAR UP – The bill provides \$306.5 million to support low-income elementary and secondary students as they prepare for and pursue a postsecondary education.

National Writing Project – The bill provides \$21.8 million, an increase of \$1.4 million over last year.

Arts in Education – The bill provides \$35.6 million, the same amount as last year.

Civic Education – The bill provides \$29.4 million, the same amount as last year.

Related Agencies:

Corporation for Public Broadcasting – \$400 million for public broadcasting in FY 2008, in addition to \$30 million included for the conversion of public broadcasting to the digital format. Also included is \$35 million for the replacement project of the interconnection system.

Social Security Administration (SSA) – \$9.199 billion, an increase of \$474.5 million over the fiscal year 2005 level for administrative expenses.

Additionally, the bill provides no Member-specific projects and does not include emergency funding for avian flu.

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