U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Summary: FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations

Full Committee Mark

Washington, DC - The fiscal year 2010 Labor, Human and Health Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill provides $163.1 billion for a range of programs that will help create jobs and train American workers for the 21st Century economy, fund cutting-edge medical research and pandemic preparedness, and open the doors of educational opportunity for young people across the country.

"This legislation is about looking to the future – a future where all kids have a chance for a good education and a chance to attend a safe and modern school, where all Americans have a chance for a chance to develop the skills to get a good job and where the most vulnerable Americans have access to the help they need whether it is energy assistance or substance abuse treatment. This bill includes $700 million to repair and build new schools – this will create jobs and help kids learn.

"I am proud that we were able to not only meet but exceed the President's request for national service and that we increased funds for addressing the nursing shortage and enforcing worker protection and workplace safety. This bill also recognizes that we must spend public money wisely – the bill includes investments to detect waste and fraud in the unemployment benefits program, the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and in Social Security. The bill also includes funds to expand those programs that have proven to be effective – we need to find out what programs work and which do not and replicate those that do."

-Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)
Chairman, Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee

Unless otherwise noted, all fiscal year 2009 figures reflect FY 2009 Omnibus enacted levels, and do not include funds provided in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) or fiscal year 2009 supplemental bills.

Bill Highlights:

- $700 million for a new program to repair unsafe and unhealthy school buildings, or build new school facilities, in every State;
- $354 million to complete funding for the Nation's pandemic influenza preparedness plan;
- A $267 million increase over fiscal year 2009 for national and community service programs;
- A $118 million increase over fiscal year 2009 for worker protection programs;
- Major increases for school reform programs, including the Teacher Incentive Fund, charter schools, and new literacy and dropout prevention programs; and
- More funding for a variety of programs to eliminate fraud, waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars.

The fiscal year 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related agencies appropriations bill was greatly influenced by the recent passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, which appropriated more than $124 billion for programs that are funded in this bill, including almost $100 billion for the Education Department and more than $10 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). As most of the funding for ARRA programs will be obligated during fiscal year 2010, the Committee generally did not provide additional large increases in this bill to those programs that received large increases in ARRA, such as Title I grants to local educational agencies, special education and NIH. The Committee expects to put a higher priority on these critical programs in the fiscal year 2011 appropriations bill.

Fiscal Year 2010 Highlights:

Labor

Job Training -- The bill includes $2.97 billion for State grants for job training, equal to the President's budget request. The Committee also recommends $1.7 billion for the Office of Job Corps, $9.7 million above the President's request. The bill also includes targeted investments in the YouthBuild program, which is funded at $105 million, the Green Jobs Innovation Fund, which is funded at $40 million, and the Transitional Jobs program funded at $40 million.

Worker Protection, Safety and Rights -- The bill provides $1.4 billion for key agencies that enforce rules protecting the health, safety, and rights of workers, including $562 million for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, $357 million for the Mine Safety and Health Administration and $499 million for the Employment Standards Administration. This total is $118 million more than the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Child Labor -- The bill includes $94 million for activities designed to end abusive child labor and forced labor, and monitor and more effectively support enforcement of labor issues in countries with which the United States has free trade agreements. This amount is $7.8 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Health and Human Services

National Institutes of Health – The bill includes $30.8 billion to fund biomedical research at the 27 Institutes and Centers that comprise the NIH. This is an increase of $442 million over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Nursing Education -- The bill includes $217 million for nursing education, $46 million over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes $5.2 million for a new nurse education program focused on nursing home aides and home health aides.

Autism -- The Committee bill includes $71 million for prevention of and support for families affected by autism and other related developmental disorders. This is an increase of $7.7 million over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Cancer Prevention -- The bill includes $380 million for cancer prevention and control efforts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is an increase of $40 million over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Global Health -- The bill includes $333 million for global health activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is an increase of $24 million over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level. Within the increase, funds are provided for an expanded vaccination campaign to prevent measles, a new chronic disease initiative and increased focus on developing the global health workforce.

Pandemic Influenza -- The bill includes $354 million to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic. This will complete the needed funding for the comprehensive pandemic influenza preparedness plan at the Department of Health and Human Services.

Head Start -- The bill includes $7.2 billion for the Head Start Program. This represents an increase of $122 million over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention -- The bill includes $104 million for a new program to fund evidence-based efforts to reduce teen pregnancy.

Education

Title I Grants to LEAs -- The bill includes $13.8 billion for title I grants to local education agencies. This amount is $800 million above the President's budget request.

School Renovation -- The bill includes $700 million for a new program to improve the condition of school facilities. This program will create thousands of jobs and make school buildings healthier, safer and more environmentally friendly, especially in poorer school districts.

Literacy -- The bill includes $263 million for a revamped Striving Readers program, which will take a comprehensive approach to literacy, serve children from birth through grade 12, and subsume the mission of the Early Reading First program, which the bill eliminates. This funding level is an increase of $115 million over the combined fiscal year 2009 enacted level for Early Reading First and Striving Readers.

Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) -- The bill includes $300 million to support performance-based compensation systems for school staff. This amount is more than triple the $97 million provided in the fiscal year 2009 education appropriations bill.

Charter Schools -- The bill includes $256 million, an increase of $40 million over the fiscal year 2009 enacted level, for the charter schools program.

Student Financial Aid -- The bill includes $19.296 billion for student financial assistance. The maximum discretionary Pell Grant Program award level is maintained at $4,860.
This funding, combined with mandatory funding provided in the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, will increase the maximum award to $5,550 for the 2010-2011 school year.

Education for Individuals With Disabilities -- The bill provides $12.6 billion to help ensure that all children have access to a free and appropriate education. This amount includes $11.5 billion for Part B grants to States, equal to the President's budget request.

Education Research, Data and Analysis -- The bill includes $679 million to support the Institute of Education Sciences. This amount is $62 million more than the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Dropout Prevention – The bill includes $50 million for a new high school graduation initiative, as requested by the administration.

Related Agencies

National and Community Service — The bill includes $1.157 billion for the Corporation for National and Community Service. This level is $267 million above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level. The Committee recommendation puts AmeriCorps on the path to 250,000 members, the goal approved by Congress earlier this year in the SERVE America Act. The Committee recommendation includes funding for several new programs including $50 million for the Social Innovation Fund, $8 million for the Volunteer Generation Fund, and $2 million for the Non-Profit Capacity Building program.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) -- The bill includes an advance appropriation for fiscal year 2012 of $450 million for the CPB. In addition, the bill includes $36 million for conversion to digital broadcasting and $25 million for the replacement project of the interconnection system in fiscal year 2010 funding, and $10 million for fiscal stabilization grants to public broadcasting stations hardest hit by the economic downturn.

Social Security Administration -- The bill includes $11.4 billion for the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration. This funding level is $984 above the fiscal year 2009 enacted level.

Elimination of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

For fiscal year 2010, 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 -- The bill includes $60 million, an increase of $10 million, to conduct eligibility reviews of claimants of Unemployment Insurance. These funds will save an estimated $160 million annually in inappropriate Unemployment Insurance payments.

Social Security Program Integrity -- The bill includes $758 million for conducting continuing disability reviews (CDRs), redeterminations of eligibility, and, to the extent that it is as cost effective, asset verification pilot programs for Social Security Disability and Supplemental Security Income benefits. CDRs save $10 in lifetime program savings for every $1 spent to conduct these activities, while redeterminations save $7 in program savings over 10 years 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 has included $311 million for Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control (HCFAC) activities at the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Committee provided $198 million in FY 2009. 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.

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