

Education Legislative Monitor

Congressman Jim Nussle

Manchester, Iowa

Summer 2006

Jim Nussle's Agenda ...

***Expand Iowa's
Economy to Create
Jobs***

***Improve Iowa
Education and
Expect Better
Results***

***Access to Quality
Health Care for All
Iowans***

***Secure Our Nation
and Support Our
Troops***

***Strengthen Iowa's
Agriculture and
Encourage Fair
Trade***

***Responsible Budgets
and Common-Sense
Taxation***

***Promote Iowa as an
Energy State***

***Retirement Security
for All Iowans***

***Honor Promises
Made to Iowa's Vet-
erans***

Nussle Agenda to Improve Iowa Education and Expect Better Results

"No child should be left behind in Iowa's public education system. Accountability and results matter. We must ensure classroom teachers and parents in our local communities come first instead of the education bureaucracy. The federal government has a limited, but important role in helping to achieve that goal. As House Budget Committee chairman, I have helped secure generous funding for special education, Pell grants and other education priorities."

Jim Nussle

Jim has worked on Iowa's education priorities since coming to Congress and will continue to work on these goals in the 109th Congress.

Improving Iowa Education Goals:

1. Protect Local Control
2. Get Money to the Classrooms
3. Continued Commitment to Accountability and Results
4. Choice for Parents
5. Secure Generous Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) Funding
6. Improve Job Training and Vocational Education

To achieve these goals, Jim has sponsored and co-sponsored many pieces of legislation. As the House Budget Committee Chairman, he has written many education items into his budget. You will find more details on the following pages.

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Nussle's Education Agenda Legislation:

Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Resolution (H.Con Res. 376)

- Provides \$37.6 billion in funding for K-12 education programs.
- This budget allows \$12.7 billion for Pell Grant aid, to serve more than 5.2 million college students.
- Special Education Grants are funded at highest level in history.
- *Constructed by Rep. Nussle as Chairman of the House Budget Committee. Approved by the House of Representatives on May 18, 2006.*

Fiscal Year 2006 Department of Education Appropriations Act (H.R. 3010)

- Provides critical funding for priority education programs, providing a high level of spending for education, at a \$65.1 billion for FY 2006.
- Includes \$184 million for Math and Science Partnership programs for teacher development and Advanced Placement testing for students.
- Includes \$11.7 billion in funds for implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the highest level of funds ever for this program. IDEA provides special funds to schools to provide equal educational opportunities for disabled students.
- *Approved by Congress and signed into law on December 30, 2005.*

Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act (H.R. 1350)

- Reauthorizes the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Substantially reduces paperwork requirements of annual individualized education plans (IEPS).
- Grants school districts greater flexibility in using their funding to more accurately classify students to avoid wrongly identifying as disabled those who may have a less severe condition.
- Increases the flexibility of school districts in making decisions about discipline for individual special education students.
- *Approved by Congress and signed into law on December 3, 2004.*

No Child Left Behind Act

- Reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), including programs vital to Iowa schools such as Title 1 for disadvantaged students, the Safe and Drug-Free Schools program and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Act.
- Provides comprehensive education reform efforts targeted at narrowing the achievement gap and providing local schools with more flexibility and control of their individual education goals.
- *Co-Sponsored by Rep. Nussle.*
- *Approved by Congress and signed into law on January 8, 2002.*
- *Iowa's Accountability Plan under No Child Left Behind was approved on June 6, 2003.*

Teacher Recruitment Act (H.R. 438)

- Expands loan forgiveness programs for teachers of math, science, and special education.
- *Approved by the House of Representatives on July 9, 2003.*

Ready to Teach Act (H.R. 2211)

- Aligns Higher Education Act teacher training standards with new standards under NCLB.
- Maintains highly qualified teachers in every classroom.
- *Approved by the House of Representatives on July 23, 2003.*

Tax Initiatives

Health and Higher Education Facilities Improvement Act (H.R. 1140)

- Improves small private colleges to improve their facilities and infrastructure by changing the tax treatment of interest from state-issued bonds.
- *Sponsored by Rep. Nussle.*

Home School Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 3753)

- Guarantees that students educated at home will not be discriminated against when they attend college.
- Mandates that home-schooled student will have the same access to tax exempt education savings accounts and other programs that are available to non-home-schooled students.
- *Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle.*

Restoring Earnings to Lift Individuals and Empower Families Act -RELIEF Act

- Raises the annual contribution limit for education IRAs from \$500 to \$2,000. Expands education IRAs to cover elementary and secondary education expenses.
- Provides an above-the-line deduction for qualified higher education expenses.
- Expands the student loan interest tax deduction beyond 60 months.
- Excludes the distribution from qualified tuition plans from gross income.
- Permanently extends the employee exclusion for employer-provided education assistance.
- Expands qualified state tuition plans to include approved private colleges and universities.
- *Approved by Congress and signed into law on June 7, 2001.*