



# APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

Rep. David Obey, Ranking Member • 1016 Longworth HOB • (202) 225-3481

## TOP 10 WAYS THE REPUBLICAN LABOR-H BILL FAILS TO INVEST IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Just days before they will again cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans, Republicans will bring to the floor a Labor-HHS-Education conference report that invests nearly \$1.5 billion *less* in critical education, health care and job assistance than last year. In fact, Republicans will spend more on tax cuts this week (\$70 billion) than they will on all education and labor programs *over the entire coming year* (\$68 billion). The conference report is only the most recent evidence that Republicans are out of touch with the priorities of the American people. Together, America can do better.

1. With a record 55 million children in public schools and state budgets stretched thin, No **Child Left Behind** funding is cut by **\$784 million**. Title I, which is the core of NCLB's efforts to improve reading and math skills, receives the smallest increase for Title I in 8 years – only \$100 million – which means 3.1 million low-income children will be left behind.
2. Even as the cost of a 4-year public college education has increased \$3,095 (34 percent) since 2001, the maximum **Pell Grant** is frozen for the fourth straight year, and no new funding for all other student financial aid and support programs is provided.
3. In an age where being tech-savvy is a necessity not a privilege, the digital divide just got bigger as the bill cuts the **Education Technology Program** by \$221 million or 45 percent.
4. Republicans will actually cut the Federal share of **special education** costs from 18.6 percent in FY 2005 to 18.0 percent by providing the smallest increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Act in a decade. The bill provides \$4 billion less than Republicans promised for IDEA.
5. With 7.4 million Americans out of work, Republicans cut the **Community College Initiative's** efforts to train workers for high skill, high paying jobs by \$125 million and rescind \$125 million from funds provided last year, denying this assistance to 100,000 Americans. Republicans also cut job search assistance through the **Employment Service** by \$89 million (11 percent). State **Unemployment Insurance** and **Employment Service offices** are cut by \$245 million (7 percent) eliminating help for 1.9 million people.
6. Consumers are expected to pay 52 percent more for natural gas and 11 percent more for electricity this winter, yet Republicans failed to increase funding for **LIHEAP** home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.
7. Only about 10 percent of physicians in America practice in rural areas despite the fact that one-fourth of the U.S. population lives in these areas. There are significant shortages of health care providers in urban, underserved areas, but **training grants for healthcare professionals** are cut \$206 million (69 percent).
8. The **International Labor Affairs Bureau** will have a hard time protecting American workers from being undercut by child and slave labor abroad after being cut by \$20 million or 21.4 percent.
9. Nearly 46 million Americans are without health insurance yet Republicans provide virtually no funding for new **Community Health Centers** beyond those approved last year. Republicans also eliminate the **Healthy Communities Access Program** (\$83 million) and **state planning grants to improve health care coverage** (\$11 million).
10. **Preventive Health Block Grants to state health departments** help address critical public health problems. The bill provides less for responding to disease outbreaks, immunizing children, and improving care for people with chronic diseases, when it cuts these grants by \$31 million or 24 percent.