

GROWING & STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S MIDDLE CLASS

EDUCATION & LABOR LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES IN THE 111TH CONGRESS



111TH CONGRESS

**THE HONORABLE GEORGE MILLER
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

UPDATED: September 30, 2010

EDUCATION AND LABOR LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

Education and Labor Committee Members are working hard in the 111th Congress to strengthen and protect America's middle class.

- ✓ **Reducing Health Care Costs, Guaranteeing Choices, and Ensuring Access to Quality, Affordable Care**
- ✓ **Making College More Affordable**
- ✓ **Saving Jobs, Training Workers and Helping Unemployed Workers; Providing Billions for Child Care and Early Education**
- ✓ **Protecting Worker Rights and Safety**
- ✓ **Preserving Retirement Security**
- ✓ **Preserving Workers' Wages**
- ✓ **Renewing and Improving National Service and Volunteer Programs**
- ✓ **Improving Child Nutrition**
- ✓ **Stopping Child Abuse**
- ✓ **Helping Schools**

BY THE NUMBERS

So far in the 111th Congress, the Committee has:

- Held 79 hearings
- Heard 437 testimonies from witnesses
- Reported 9 bills out of Committee
- Worked on 13 bills in the Committee's jurisdiction that became law

**REDUCING HEALTH CARE COSTS,
GUARANTEEING CHOICES, AND
ENSURING ACCESS TO QUALITY,
AFFORDABLE CARE**

**Affordable Health Care for America
(Signed into Law)**



For the first time in America's history, all Americans will have access to quality, affordable health care under a final package of health insurance reforms signed into law on March 23, 2010 and March 30, 2010. The law will protect Americans from the worst

insurance industry practices, offer the uninsured and small businesses the opportunity to obtain affordable health care plans, cover 32 million uninsured Americans, all while reducing the deficit by \$143 billion over the next decade and more than a trillion dollars over 20 years.

The health insurance reform package combines the best ideas from all sides of the debate, capping a year-long transparent legislative effort.

- ✓ Health insurance reform puts American families and small business owners—not the insurance companies—in control of their own health care.
- ✓ Making health insurance affordable for middle class and small businesses—one of largest tax cuts for health care in history—reducing premiums and out-of-pocket costs.
- ✓ Giving millions of Americans access to affordable insurance choices just as big businesses have—through a new competitive health insurance market that keeps costs down.
- ✓ Holding insurance companies accountable to keep premiums down and prevent denials of care and coverage, including for pre-existing conditions.

- ✓ Improving Medicare benefits with lower prescription drug costs for those in the 'donut hole,' better chronic care, free preventive care, and nearly a decade more of solvency for Medicare.
- ✓ Reducing the deficit by \$143 billion over the next ten years, and by \$1.2 trillion more over the following decade; reining in waste, fraud and abuse, paying for quality over quantity of care.

MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE

**Landmark Investment in America's
Economic Future
(Signed into Law)**

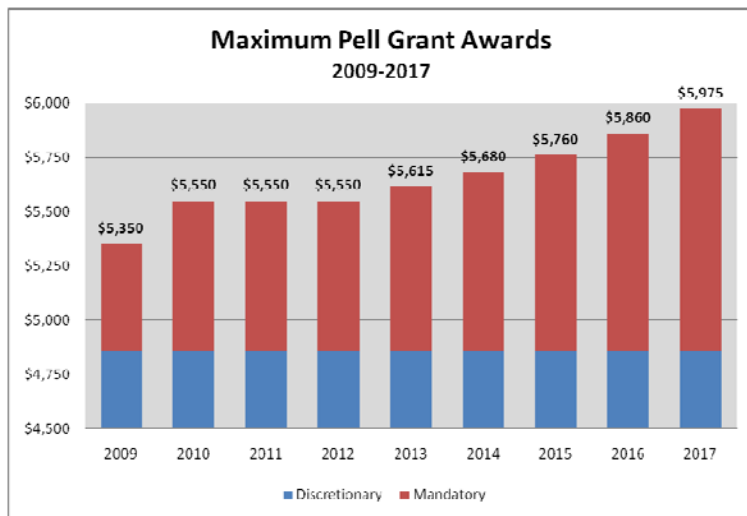
The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act was passed by the House on September 17, 2009 by a vote of 253-171, then passed again as part of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, which was signed into law on March 30, 2010. The law, which saves taxpayers \$61 billion over the 10 years by switching to the more efficient Direct Loan program, will help America reach President Obama's goal of producing the most college graduates by 2020 by making college accessible and transforming the way our student loan programs operate. It will strengthen community colleges and training programs to help build a highly-skilled, innovative, 21st century workforce ready for the rigors of a global economy. And it will boost the fiscal health of the country our children will inherit by paying down the deficit by at least \$10 billion over 10 years.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act:

- Invests the bill's savings in making college affordable and helping more Americans graduate
 - Invests \$36 billion over 10 years to increase the maximum annual Pell Grant scholarship to \$5,550 in 2010 and to \$5,975 by 2017.
 - Makes federal loans more affordable for borrowers to repay by investing \$1.5 billion to strengthen an

Income-Based Repayment program that currently allows borrowers to cap their monthly federal student loan payments at 15 percent of their discretionary income. These new provisions would lower this monthly cap to just 10 percent for new borrowers after 2014.

- Provides reliable, affordable, high-quality Federal student loans for all families
- Prepares students and workers for 21st century jobs by providing all Americans with the skills and resources they need to compete
 - Invests \$2.55 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions
 - Invests \$2 billion in a competitive grant program for community colleges
- Keeps jobs in America.
- Meets Pay-As-You-Go fiscally responsible principles and reduces the deficit



Note: The House also passed H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010, on July 1, 2010, which, among other things, invests \$4.95 billion, fully offset, to address the current year shortfall in the Pell Grant Program.

SAVING JOBS, TRAINING WORKERS AND HELPING UNEMPLOYED WORKERS; PROVIDING BILLIONS FOR CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION

Providing Billions in Emergency Relief to Save and Create Jobs, Help Schools (Signed into Law)

President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into law on February 17, 2009 to save and create millions of jobs, invest in education and get the economy moving forward again. In the fourth quarter of 2009, as many as 2.1 million more U.S. workers had jobs, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The law provides:

- A \$53.6 billion state stabilization fund to help states prevent cutbacks, layoffs, create jobs by modernizing schools and colleges and meet other needs.
- \$13 billion in Title I – which goes to educate low-income students – for school districts and \$12.2 billion in IDEA funding to help districts educate students with disabilities.
- \$2.1 billion for Head Start and Early Head Start for 63,000 children
- \$2 billion for Child Care Development Block Grants to provide child care services to more than 200,000 low-income children while their parents are at work.
- \$500 increase in the Pell Grant scholarship
- A new \$2,500 tuition tax credit to help an additional four million students families pay for college.
- Almost \$4 billion for job training programs
- \$500 million to help prepare Americans with disabilities for employment.
- \$120 million to provide community service jobs to an additional 24,000 low-income older Americans.
- \$500 million to help states place unemployed workers in open jobs.
- A 65 percent subsidy toward COBRA premiums for up to nine months for workers who recently lost their jobs.

Extending Unemployment Compensation (Signed into Law)

The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010, a Ways and Means Committee measure, was signed into law on July 22, 2010. "...More than 2.5 million Americans struggling to find work will now be able to breathe a small sigh of relief. Unemployment benefits are a proven way to boost our economy while delivering a much-needed lifeline for Americans looking for work. While nothing replaces a good-paying job, providing basic support for families out of work through no fault of their own is the decent and right thing to do," said Chairman Miller.

Saving Teacher Jobs (Signed into Law)

The House passed the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act on August 10, 2010 to save or create 319,000 American jobs in local communities, including 161,000 teacher jobs, and also to discourage American corporations from shipping jobs overseas. The measure, which was signed into law on August 10, 2010, includes \$10 billion to save teacher jobs and \$16.1 billion in health assistance to the states. The funding will also keep police officers and firefighters on the job, at no cost to taxpayers.

Improving Public-Private Sector Economic Development (Passed by House)

The House passed the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act (SECTORS) on July 19, 2010 to help address local skills shortages by bringing employers in key industries together with education, labor, workforce, and other groups to identify and provide training tailored to meet the sector needs of that region's economy.

Providing an Additional Economic Boost to Create Jobs, Assist the Unemployed (Passed by House)

The Jobs for Main Street Act, passed by the House on December 16, 2009 by a vote of 217-212, would create urgently needed new jobs for construction workers, teachers, police officers, firefighters and others, and extend critical assistance for the unemployed and those who have lost health insurance, using existing available funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP).

PROTECTING WORKER RIGHTS AND SAFETY

Making Work Safer for America's Miners (Passed by Committee)

On July 21, 2010 by a 30-17 vote, the Committee passed the Robert C. Byrd Miner Safety and Health Act to reform the nation's mine and worker safety laws. The bill would provide stronger tools to ensure that underground coal mine operations with troubling safety records improve conditions, empower workers to speak up about safety concerns and give the Department of Labor the tools it needs to ensure that all workers go home safely at the end of the day.

In addition, responding to a number of recent deadly explosions at refineries, power plants and food processing facilities, the bill would also extend similar worker protections to all workplaces in order to hold employers accountable if they knowingly put their workers in danger.

Protecting Oil and Gas Whistleblowers (Passed by House)

On July 30, 2010, in a strong bipartisan vote of 315-93, the House passed the Offshore Oil and Gas Worker

Whistleblower Protection Act to protect oil and gas workers if they are retaliated against after they blow the whistle on workplace health and safety violations on the Outer Continental Shelf. Currently, workers on oil rigs like the Deepwater Horizon risk losing their jobs if they report dangerous workplace conditions. The workers performing clean-up activities on the Outer Continental Shelf similarly have no protections against employer retaliation for raising health and safety concerns.

***Protecting Miners and Guaranteeing
Collective Bargaining Rights
for First Responders
(Signed into Law)***

The House voted 308-114 for final passage of H.R. 4899, the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010, on July 27, 2010, and it was signed into law on July 29, 2010. Among other things, the measure provides a \$22 million down payment to reduce the backlog of mine safety enforcement cases and to ensure that there are sufficient resources for the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration to meet all of its legally mandated mine inspection requirements. (Note: The collective bargaining provision for first responders was rejected by the Senate and is, therefore, not included in the final bill.)

PRESERVING RETIREMENT SECURITY

***Legislation to Expose Hidden 401(k) Fees
(Passed by House)***

The 401(k) Fair Disclosure for Retirement Security Act, passed by the Committee on June 27 by a vote of 29-17 and passed by the House as part of the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act, will help workers shop around for the best retirement options by requiring simple fee disclosure on the investment options contained in their employer's 401(k) plan. The measure also restores workers'

protections by laying out clear rules to ensure that workers receive investment advice at work that is based solely on interests of the account holder's needs, not investment firms' bottom line. Furthermore, it provides adjustments to pension funding rules to ensure plans can weather the economic crisis without being forced to choose between cutting jobs or freezing plans.

PRESERVING WORKERS' WAGES

***Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act: Ensuring that
Victims of Pay Discrimination
Are Treated Fairly
(Signed into Law)***



The President hands Rep. George Miller a pen after signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Act, which Miller authored.

On January 29, 2009, President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. The measure, which passed the House by a vote of 250-177 on January 27, 2009, overturned a Supreme Court ruling that made it harder for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims. The legislation is named after Lilly Ledbetter,

whose pay discrimination claim was denied by a 5-4 Supreme Court decision on May 29, 2007. The court said she had waited too long to sue for pay discrimination, despite the fact that she filed a charge with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as soon as she received an anonymous note alerting her to pay discrimination. The court ruled that since she did not raise a claim within 180 days of the employer's decision to discriminate, she could not receive back pay. The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act would clarify that every paycheck or other compensation resulting, in whole or in part, from an earlier discriminatory pay decision constitutes a violation of

the Civil Rights Act. The legislation would also make it clear that employees who are victims of discrimination are entitled to up to two years of back pay, as already provided in the Civil Rights Act.

Paycheck Fairness Act (Passed by House)

On January 9, 2009, the House passed the Paycheck Fairness Act by a vote of 256-163 to help end the discriminatory practice of paying men and women unequally for performing the same job. Loopholes created by courts and weak sanctions in the law have allowed many employers to avoid liability for engaging in gender-based pay discrimination. The bill, which was introduced by Rep. Rosa DeLauro, will strengthen the Equal Pay Act and close the loopholes that have allowed employers to avoid responsibility for discriminatory pay. Although the wage gap between men and women has narrowed since the passage of the landmark Equal Pay Act in 1963, gender-based wage discrimination remains a significant problem for women in the U.S. workforce. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, women only make 78 cents for every dollar earned by a man. The Institute of Women's Policy Research concluded that this wage disparity will cost a woman anywhere from \$400,000 to \$2 million over her lifetime in lost wages.



RENEWING AND IMPROVING NATIONAL SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

New Era of National Service and Volunteerism (Signed into Law)

With Americans facing unprecedented challenges in their communities, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation on March 31, 2009 that will launch a new era of

national service and volunteerism to help the nation emerge stronger from the economic crisis. The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which was signed into law by President Obama on April 21, 2009, was approved by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 275 to 149. The law creates 175,000 new service opportunities and rewards Americans for commitment. Among other things, it would create new service corps to meet key needs in low-income communities, provide incentives for middle and high school students to engage in service, boosts opportunities for disadvantaged and foster youth, Native Americans and older Americans.



IMPROVING CHILD NUTRITION

Supporting Child Health and Reducing Childhood Hunger (Passed by Committee)

The Committee passed the Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act with a bipartisan vote of 32-13 on July 15, 2010 to support children's health and reduce childhood hunger by dramatically improving federal child nutrition programs. The bill includes sweeping reforms to significantly increase access and remove barriers to child nutrition programs, improve the quality of the meals served and implement new school food safety guidelines. The bill would increase the reimbursement rate for schools -- the first increase in over 30 years. Additionally, for the first time, it would require schools to set standards for foods served outside the cafeteria, including vending machines.

The bill also expands the national afterschool meals program so more children in afterschool programs can have an additional snack or meal, and strengthens the science-based foundation that ensures the WIC program best meets the nutrition needs of participants by enhancing the Secretary of Agriculture's existing authority to conduct scientific reviews.

STOPPING CHILD ABUSE

Keeping Students Safe in Schools (Passed by House)

The House passed the Keeping All Students Safe Act on March 3, 2010, 262-153, to protect children from misuses of restraint and seclusion in classrooms. A U.S. Government Accountability Office report released in the spring of 2009 exposed hundreds of alleged cases of schoolchildren being abused as a result of inappropriate uses of restraint and seclusion, often involving untrained staff. In a number of cases, children died. Unlike in hospitals and other community-based facilities that receive federal taxpayer dollars, there are currently no federal laws that address how and when restraint and seclusion can be used on children in public and private schools. GAO also found that improperly trained teachers were too often using these practices as frequent discipline. Among other things, the Keeping All Students Safe Act would establish, for the first time, minimum federal standards to provide equal protections to all students, in every state across the country. It would make clear that physical restraint or locked seclusion should be used only when there is imminent danger of injury and only when imposed by trained staff.

Stopping Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens (Passed by House)

The House passed the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009 on February 23, 2009 by a vote of 295-102. The Government Accountability Office found thousands of allegations of child abuse and neglect at residential programs for teens – including therapeutic boarding schools, wilderness camps, boot camps, and behavior modification facilities – between 1994 and 2007. Tragically, in a number of cases, this abuse and neglect led to the death of a child. To address this urgent problem, this measure would establish minimum health and safety

standards for preventing child abuse and neglect at teen residential programs. It prohibits physical, mental, and sexual abuse and requires programs to provide children with adequate food, water, rest, and medical care. The bill allows for civil penalties against programs that violate the new standards. It also requires states, within three years, to take on the role of setting and enforcing standards for both private and public youth residential programs. The legislation would also help ensure that parents have the information about teen residential programs that they need to make safe choices for their children.

HELPING SCHOOLS

Modernizing America's School Facilities (Passed by House)



On May 14, 2009, the House passed the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, by a vote of 275-155, to invest in modernizing public school buildings across the country. The measure invests \$6.4 billion in school repair and renovation projects for fiscal year 2010 that would create safer, healthier, and more energy-efficient learning environments for students. It would create clean energy jobs that will help put workers in hard-hit industries back to work, and make investments in Gulf Coast schools as they continue to rebuild following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and schools in other areas recovering from natural disasters. According to calculations by the Economic Policy Institute, the legislation would support 136,000 jobs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act also provided funds to: repair and modernize existing public schools and higher education facilities; update schools with 21st century technology; and create green, modern, state-of-the-art classrooms and schools.

EDUCATION & LABOR LEGISLATION

Signed Into Law:

Bill	Date Signed	Date Passed House
Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act	January 29, 2009	January 27, 2009 250-177
Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009	February 4, 2009	February 4, 2009 290-135
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act	February 17, 2009	February 13, 2009 246 - 183, 1 Present
Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act (formerly the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act)	April 21, 2009	March 31, 2009 275-149
Making technical corrections and conforming changes to the Higher Education Act	July 1, 2009	June 23, 2009 411-0
Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act	December 21, 2009	December 2, 2009 Voice vote
To provide a temporary extension of certain programs, and for other purposes	March 2, 2010	February 25, 2010 Passed by voice vote
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	March 23, 2010	March 21, 2010 219-212
Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (as part of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010)	March 30, 2010	Final passage of reconciliation bill: March 25, 2010 220-207 Original SAFRA: September 17, 2009 253-171
Continuing Extension Act of 2010	April 15, 2010	April 15, 2010 289 - 112
Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010	July 29, 2010	Final passage: July 27, 2010 308-114
Independent Living Centers Technical Adjustment Act	July 29, 2010	July 28, 2010 Voice vote

Signed Into Law (continued):

Bill	Date Signed	Date Passed House
Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act	August 10, 2010	August 10, 2010 247-161

Passed by House:

Bill	Date Passed	Vote Tally
Paycheck Fairness Act	January 9, 2009	256-163
Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2009	February 23, 2009	295-102
21 st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act	May 14, 2009	275-155
Keeping All Students Safe Act	March 3, 2010	262-153
401(k) Fair Disclosure and Pension Security Act (as part of the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act)	May 28, 2010	215-204
Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act (SECTORS)	July 19, 2010	Voice vote
Offshore Oil and Gas Worker Whistleblower Protection Act	July 30, 2010	315-93

Passed by Committee:

Bill	Date Passed	Vote Tally
401(k) Fair Disclosure and Pension Security Act	June 24, 2009	29-17
Improving Nutrition for America's Children Act	July 15, 2010	32-13
Robert C. Byrd Miner Safety and Health Act	July 21, 2010	30-17



Chairman George Miller

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