

Statement of  
CHAIRMAN GEORGE MILLER  
Committee on Education and Labor  
Before the Committee on House Administration  
Hearing on "Review of the Use of Committee Funds in the First Session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress"

January 27, 2010

Chairman Brady and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before this Committee to review the funding appropriated to the Committee on Education and Labor for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I would also like to thank Mr. Kline, the Senior Republican Member, for his support of the Committee budget.

The Committee has been especially active during the first session of this Congress. The Committee's Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was the first bill signed by President Obama. The Committee also played a major role in crafting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In the spring, President Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, the first reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Committee achieved House passage of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, producing \$87 billion in taxpayer's savings for increased student aid and deficit reduction. Lastly, the Committee has been working, along with our colleagues on the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce Committees to accomplish President's Obama's Health Care Reform Agenda.

To finance these efforts, the Committee received \$8,617,490.00 for its operational expenses for the first session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. The amount is allocated between the Majority and the Minority through the customary 2/3rds-1/3<sup>rd</sup> split. These divisions allow for the minority to adequately staff and prepare the Republican Members of the Committee. The funding received by the Committee was spent in compliance with the rules of the House and this Committee.

For the first session of this Congress, we presently estimate that the Committee has spent \$8,073,768. This will likely produce a balance of \$544,000. The majority of this balance is largely due to several senior staffers of the Committee accepting employment with the Obama Administration. Two of our staff were confirmed by the Senate for Assistant Secretary Positions, one was appointed as an acting Assistant Secretary and yet another accepted a chief of staff position for a senior official at the Department of Education. These senior staffers had salaries that were on the high spectrum of the salary scale compared to other staff. This left us with a higher balance for 2009 than initially projected.

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As the Committee continues its busy workload in this Congress, we are scheduled to receive \$8,953,572 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session. I believe this amount is appropriate given the anticipated legislative activity of the Committee in 2010. We are in the process of hiring additional staff and will utilize nearly all of our 52 Majority staff slots to complete what will continue to be a packed legislative calendar in 2010. Among the items the Committee will likely address this year include: Continued work on the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, additional work with the Ways and Means Committee on pension issues, Elementary and Secondary Education reauthorization, and review of our child nutrition programs.

The funding provided for the Committee allows it to carry out its important oversight and legislative responsibilities. As I stated earlier, I believe our schedule allocation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> session of this Congress adequately allows us to accomplish these duties. Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will be pleased to respond to any questions.