



COMMITTEES ON APPROPRIATIONS

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SUMMARY: FY 2010 LABOR, HEALTH & EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The country is experiencing the longest and deepest economic downturn since the Great Depression, with eight million jobs lost and fifteen million people still out of work. Nearly six million people have been out of work for six months or more – the highest proportion of long-term joblessness on record. Many families cannot pay their bills or mortgage payments, and trillions of dollars of wealth has been stripped from Americans' retirement accounts.

Moreover, the recession has caused an economic crisis for the States. States across the country face continuing revenue shortfalls, leading to reductions in vital services, including those that help some of the most vulnerable among us.

The fiscal year 2010 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill makes vital investments to train people for jobs, shores up health and social safety nets to provide relief for millions of hard-working Americans caught in a struggle for economic survival, and provides the educational opportunities that are critical to the nation's longer-term prosperity.

Bill Total

FY 2009 Enacted:	\$155.049 billion (excludes emergency appropriations)
President's Request:	\$160.706 billion
House Passed:	\$163.400 billion
Senate Committee:	\$163.100 billion
Final Bill:	\$163.565 billion

KEY INVESTMENTS

Elimination of Fraud, Waste and Abuse: The bill includes \$1.129 billion – a 50 percent increase – for program integrity activities designed to reduce improper payments, fraud, and abuse. These funds will allow the Department of Labor to conduct additional eligibility assessments and improper payment reviews under the Unemployment Insurance Program, expand the HHS Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program, and enable the Social Security Administration to work down a backlog of continuing disability reviews and redeterminations to ensure that benefits are properly paid. These efforts could result in over \$48 billion in savings and increased revenues over the next ten years. In addition, the conferees fully fund the amounts requested for the various Inspectors General with audit and oversight responsibilities for the agencies included in the conference report.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INVESTMENTS

Community Health Centers: \$2.2 billion, matching the request and 2009, to provide primary health care to 17 million patients, of whom 40 percent are uninsured, in 7,500 service delivery sites. These centers provide high quality care in both urban and rural underserved areas across the country.

Health Professions Workforce Shortages: \$498 million, \$105 million above 2009 but \$30 million below the request, to support the training of students across health professions and nursing fields. Some of the programs are specifically targeted to disadvantaged, underserved populations.

- **Nurse Training:** \$244 million, \$73 million above 2009, for nurse training. This substantial increase is essential because the U.S. is in the midst of a nursing shortage that is expected to intensify as baby boomers age and the need for health care grows. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) estimates that the nation's nursing shortage will grow to more than one million nurses by the year 2020.
- **Health System Reform Needs:** The bill directs HRSA and DOL to jointly establish a strategic plan to address emerging needs in the health care sector through a joint DOL-HRSA interagency task force.

Dental Care and Training: \$66 million, \$15 million above 2009, for programs that provide critical dental care and train dental care workers, including a \$7.5 million or 75 percent, increase for State Dental Health Grants, in order to expand dental care access to the more than 100 million Americans who do not have dental insurance – more than twice as many as those without health insurance.

State Health Access Grants: \$75 million, matching the request and 2009, to provide a second year of grants for the program designed to allow states to implement innovative healthcare solutions. States can use this funding to expand coverage for segments of their population and/or to test new ideas.

National Institutes of Health (NIH): \$31 billion, \$250 million above the request and \$692 million above 2009, for biomedical research to improve health and reduce health care expenditures. NIH research helps improve the quality of health care.

Public Health: \$6.8 billion, \$99 million above the request and \$128 million above 2009, for the discretionary public health programs administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Increases are provided for a number of CDC programs, including:

- \$14 million increase to ensure continued collection of accurate core data on the health status of the U.S. population and the use of health services in order to gauge the success of health systems reform;

- \$36 million increase to support HIV testing of up to 600,000 persons and to link HIV positive individuals with health services;
- \$10 million increase for global immunization, which CDC estimates will lead to 25,000 fewer global measles-related deaths in fiscal year 2010;
- \$30 million increase for cancer prevention and control, including \$3 million to expand pediatric cancer registry data for use by researchers.

Mental Health Services: \$1 billion, \$19 million above the request and \$36 million above 2009, for mental health services programs administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Increases are provided for a number of mental health services programs, including:

- \$13 million increase for Children's Mental Health to provide additional children who have mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders with community-based care and support;
- \$5 million increase for State homelessness grants to provide an estimated 11,000 additional homeless and seriously mentally ill individuals with community-based support services; and
- \$7 million increase to double an initiative that integrates primary and behavioral health care for an estimated three million Americans with severe mental illnesses.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment: \$2.5 billion, \$61.5 million above 2009 and \$18.5 million above the request, for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs administered by SAMHSA. Increases are provided for a number of programs, including:

- \$20 million increase for treatment drug courts to provide additional individuals involved in juvenile, family, or adult drug courts with needed substance abuse treatment and recovery support services, including the provision of social services for children with methamphetamine-addicted parents; and
- \$20 million increase for the substance abuse and treatment block grant to fund State drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services.

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs): \$190 million, \$17 million above the request and \$28 million above 2009, to continue an aggressive campaign to dramatically reduce life-threatening infections that patients acquire while receiving treatment for medical or surgical conditions. HAIs are among the top ten leading causes of death in the United States, accounting for nearly 100,000 deaths, 1.7 million infections, and \$30 billion in excess healthcare costs every year. The bill includes:

- \$5 million for the HHS Office of the Secretary to coordinate and integrate HAI-related activities across the Department and continue a national media campaign for health care providers and consumers launched in FY 2009.
- \$136 million, \$6 million above 2009, for CDC's emerging infectious diseases portfolio, which includes HAIs, for expanded surveillance, public health research, and prevention activities
- \$15 million, \$5 million above 2009, to expand the CDC National Healthcare Safety Network for increased HAI surveillance in hospitals.

- \$34 million, \$17 million above 2009, for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for nationwide implementation of evidence-based HAI prevention training in over 5,000 hospitals and for the MRSA Collaborative Research Initiative.

Nursing Home and Medical Facilities Inspections: \$347 million, \$54 million above 2009, within Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for enhanced State inspections in nursing homes and other medical facilities where HAIs are rising, giving inspectors' greater opportunities to identify infection control problems. The conferees also urge CMS to include additional infection control measures in its hospital performance reporting system, Hospital Compare, and its "pay for performance" and "pay for reporting" systems.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention: \$114 million for a new evidence-based teenage pregnancy prevention initiative in the HHS Office of the Secretary to address a rise in teenage pregnancies, following a 34 percent decline between 1991 and 2006. The overwhelming majority of teenage pregnancies are unplanned; therefore, reducing the incidence of teenage pregnancy can have untold individual and societal benefits, including reducing poverty, improving education outcomes, improving child well-being, and reducing the need for abortions.

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR THE VERY VULNERABLE

Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP): \$5.1 billion, matching 2009 and \$1.9 billion above the request, to ensure that approximately 7.5 million low-income households continue to receive the home energy assistance they need in a volatile energy market.

Head Start: \$7.2 billion, matching the request and \$122 million above 2009, to sustain high-quality, comprehensive early childhood services, including educational, health, nutritional, and social services, for approximately 978,000 low-income children before they enter school, nearly 70,000 over the 2008 level.

Foster Care Innovation: \$20 million, matching the request, for a new initiative to improve outcomes for children in foster care by providing incentives to States to develop evidence-based improvements for children in long-term care.

Nutrition and Other Services for Seniors: \$1.5 billion, \$22 million above the request and 2009, to boost nutrition, transportation, and other supportive services for elderly Americans. This funding will help provide nearly 239 million meals to 2.5 million seniors, an increase of approximately 3 million meals.

Reducing Abortions: \$7.8 billion, matching the request and \$73 million above 2009, for programs that may help reduce the number of abortions in America by alleviating the economic pressures and other real life conditions that can sometimes cause women to decide not to carry their pregnancies to term.

IMPROVING EDUCATION

Title I Grants for Low-Income Children: \$14.5 billion, \$1.5 billion above the request, for Title I grants to school districts to ensure that approximately 20 million disadvantaged children in nearly 55,000 public schools obtain the educational skills they need to compete in a global economy. These funds may also be used to support early childhood education activities.

School Improvement: \$545 million, matching 2009, for assistance to approximately 13,000 schools across the country with chronically poor academic performance.

After School Centers: \$1.2 billion, \$35 million above the request and 2009, for tutoring, mentoring and enrichment activities for approximately 1.6 million children, nearly 50,000 more students than in 2009. Research shows that when students have a place to go after school where they can study and be supervised by an adult, not only are they less likely to get into trouble, they also get a better education.

Teacher Incentive Fund: \$400 million, \$303 million above 2009, for the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF), which supports school districts and States that aim to reward effective teaching through compensation systems that reward entire high-need schools for raising student achievement.

Charter Schools: \$256 million, \$40 million above 2009, to support the start-up of over 1,300 new charter schools in fiscal year 2010. The bill also includes new accountability measures to ensure that new charter schools are successful.

Striving Readers: \$250 million to transform Striving Readers into a new comprehensive literacy initiative from pre-K through grade 12 to help struggling students build their literacy skills and improve the integration of reading initiatives across the Department of Education.

High School Graduation Initiative: \$50 million for a new High School Graduation Initiative to target assistance to high schools that disproportionately contribute to the nation's dropout crisis, as proposed by the Administration.

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act: \$11.5 billion, matching the request and building on \$11.3 billion in the Recovery Act, to continue support of the Federal contribution toward special education.

Adult Education: \$628 million, matching the request and \$74 million above 2009, for Adult Basic Literacy Education State Grants. These State formula grants will enable over three million adults to acquire basic literacy skills, complete a secondary education, and become more employable, productive, and responsible citizens – 316,000 more adults than last year.

Pell Grants: \$17.495 billion to maintain the discretionary portion of the maximum Pell Grant award at \$4,860, which, combined with a mandatory supplement of \$690, will support a \$5,550 maximum Pell Grant in fiscal year 2010, an increase of \$200 over the 2009 award level. Last year, the Committee led the effort to provide an historic \$619 increase in the maximum Pell award, to \$5,350. Pell Grants are the foundation of the Federal commitment to ensure access to higher educational opportunities for low- and middle-income students by providing need-based financial assistance that helps them pay for college costs. The bill will provide more than eight million students with financial assistance under the Pell Grant program.

Strengthening Minority-Serving Institutions: \$603 million to strengthen the capacity of Historically Black and Predominantly Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities and Native American-serving Institutions, Asian Pacific Islander, and Native American institutions, \$60 million over the President's request and \$96 million over 2009. In addition, the bill provides for \$178 million in new loan guarantees for Historically Black College and University facilities – nearly triple the 2009 level.

TRIO and GEAR UP: \$853 million for TRIO programs, \$5 million above 2009, and \$323 million for GEAR UP, \$10 million above 2009, to assist approximately 1.6 million disadvantaged and first-generation students prepare for, enter, and complete college.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Dislocated Worker Employment and Training Activities: \$1.4 billion, matching the request and \$71 million above 2009, for training and supportive services to workers affected by mass layoffs and plant closures. More than 2.6 million workers lost their jobs through October of 2009 due to mass layoffs, the highest number since the Bureau of Labor Statistics began collecting such data in 1995.

YouthBuild: \$103 million, \$33 million above 2009, to expand the YouthBuild program so that nearly 7,000 at-risk youth can gain high school credentials and construction skills training while building affordable housing for low-income families.

Transitional Jobs: \$45 million for a new initiative based on a proven employment strategy to help workers who face substantial barriers to entering the workforce, including substance abuse, poor mental and physical health, disability, and low educational attainment.

Green Jobs: \$40 million to prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy. This new initiative will help 8,000 workers enter careers in emerging green industries.

Career Pathways Innovation Fund: \$125 million, matching 2009, for competitive grants to community colleges and partnerships with local adult education providers to prepare workers for careers in high-demand and emerging industries. The bill directs that roughly half of these funds, \$65 million, be used to train workers for careers in the health care sector.

Older Workers: \$825 million, \$250 million above the request and \$254 million above 2009, to provide community service opportunities for approximately 125,000 low-income seniors. This program places low-income, unemployed adults over the age of 55 in training and subsidized employment with community service organizations. With the recession's impact on older workers, these additional funds are needed to provide income-producing opportunities for eligible individuals.

Unemployment Insurance Operations: \$3.2 billion, matching the request and \$423.5 million above 2009, to help States process an estimated \$141 billion in Federal and State Unemployment Insurance benefits for an estimated 15.6 million individuals – including a 45 percent increase in regular UI benefit claims in FY 2010.

Veterans Employment and Training: \$256 million, \$23 million above 2009, to maximize employment and training opportunities for veterans transitioning to the civilian workforce, and to protect their employment rights.

Centers of Excellence for Veterans Success: \$6 million for the Department of Education for a new initiative to establish college and university-based support centers for veterans seeking to obtain a post-secondary education.

WORKER SAFETY AND HEALTH

Worker Protection Agencies: \$1.6 billion, \$121 million above 2009, to support more than 600 new full-time enforcement and compliance personnel at the Employment Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), Employment Standards Administration (ESA), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). These additional funds will help Department of Labor worker protection agencies rebuild their capacity to enforce the nation's laws providing for safe workplaces, wages paid for hours worked, and secure pensions and health benefits.

VOLUNTEERISM AND SERVICE TO AMERICA

Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS): \$1.1 billion, matching the request and \$260 million above 2009. This funding will support a total number of 85,000 AmeriCorps members, an increase of 10,000 from fiscal year 2009. This funding will enable these individuals to serve their communities while earning an education award to further their education or pay off student loans. AmeriCorps members conduct vital services for nonprofits and communities including financial counseling, disaster response, housing support, and after school programs.

Innovation in Service: \$65 million for innovative activities in community engagement. Included within the total is an initial investment of \$50 million to launch a new Social Innovation Fund that will leverage matching non-Federal funds to scale up proven programs and invest in promising new ideas in low-income communities. In addition, \$4 million will be awarded to States to develop and improve volunteer recruitment efforts and \$1 million will be awarded to improve the ability of non-profits to engage in more effective management processes.

Summer of Service: \$2 million to support 2,000 students for a new Summer of Service program. Programs will engage middle school students in community-based service-learning projects that are designed to produce identifiable improvements in the community.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Supporting Seniors and the Disabled: \$11.4 billion, matching the request and \$993 million above 2009, for the administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration. The Committees are dedicated to helping the Social Security Administration (SSA) address several challenges, including processing a rising number of retirement and disability claims, reducing the backlog of disability claims, and improving service to the public.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Public Broadcasting: \$531 million, \$30 million above the request and \$40 million above 2009, for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. This amount includes:

- \$445 million for a fiscal year 2012 advance appropriation;
- \$36 million for digital conversion grants;
- \$25 million to complete the public radio satellite replacement and interconnection project; and
- \$25 million for one-time grants to forestall layoffs and cutbacks in essential programming, recognizing the financial challenges confronting more than 1,000 public broadcasting stations in the current economic downturn.

SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS

In order to invest in the critical priorities identified in the bill, and in an effort to build an economy that is on a solid foundation for growth to put the nation on a path toward prosperity, the bill makes hard choices by proposing a number of program terminations, reductions, and other savings from the fiscal year 2009 totaling \$1.2 billion. In addition, \$3.3 billion in other savings from the budget request are recommended. These adjustments, no matter their size, are important to setting the right priorities within the spending allocation, for reducing the deficit, and creating a government that is as efficient as it is effective.

IMPORTANT POLICY ITEMS

- Continues all prior restrictions on the use of funds in the Act for abortion.
- Continues a prohibition on the use of funds in the Act for research that creates or destroys human embryos.

- Modifies a prohibition on the use of funds in the Act for needle exchange programs; the revised provision prohibits the use of funds in this Act for needle exchange programs in any location that local public health or law enforcement agencies determine to be inappropriate.
- Includes a new provision that delays scheduled minimum wage increases in American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands until September 30 of each year.
- Continues a prohibition on the use of funds to process Social Security claims based on use of a fraudulent Social Security number that has resulted in a conviction.
- Includes a prohibition on the use of funds to implement a Social Security Totalization Agreement with Mexico.
- Includes a new provision prohibiting the use of funds in a manner that contravenes the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act.
- Modifies current authorities to allow the Departments of Homeland Security and Labor to conduct fraud prevention and enforcement programs that focus on industries employing temporary workers using the H-1B, H-2B and H-2A visa programs, which includes seasonal agricultural work, forestry, and landscaping.