



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

January 13, 2010

S. 2865 **Congressional Award Program Reauthorization Act of 2009**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs on December 16, 2009*

S. 2865 would reauthorize the Congressional Award Act through fiscal year 2012 (the act expired on October 1, 2009). The legislation also would make technical changes to the award program that would affect the terms of board members and the program's financial operations, including the ability to apply for and accept federal grants. The bill would authorize the creation of a foundation to raise money for the program. The Congressional Award Program recognizes excellence in public service and personal development among young people. The program is overseen by the Congressional Award Board, a nonprofit organization that receives no direct federal funding.

Under S. 2865, the Congressional Award Board would continue to receive in-kind services from the federal government, including office space in the Ford House Office Building and an annual audit by the Government Accountability Office. CBO estimates that the board's continued use of such services would cost less than \$500,000 a year in appropriated funds.

In addition, those recognized by the Congressional Award Program are awarded medals produced by the U.S. Mint. Based on information from the board and the Mint, CBO estimates that reauthorizing the program would increase direct spending from the U.S. Mint Public Enterprise Fund by less than \$500,000 annually.

S. 2865 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Matthew Pickford. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.