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Radio Address - Education Budget 12/2/00

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Final 12/01/00 7:00pm

Jeff Shesol

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON THE EDUCATION BUDGET
THE WHITE HOUSE
December 2, 2000

7

Good morning. This weekend, Congress is on its way back to Washington after an extended break. Today, I want to tell you how important it is that we get right back to business, and fulfill our responsibility to give our children a world-class education.

Earlier this year, I sent Congress a budget that would make vital investments in education. It's a budget that puts our children first: by investing more in our schools and demanding more from them... by modernizing old schools, building new ones, and reducing class sizes... by hiring more well-prepared teachers, expanding after-school programs, and turning around failing schools.

That was back in February. Ten months have passed since then; three seasons have turned; and Congress decided to break for the election without passing an education budget. But this week, Congress returns to session, and it still has time to get the job done. Congress should pass an education budget as its first order of business.

Fortunately, we are already standing on common ground. When Congress left town, we had already reached an historic agreement with members of both parties. A broad, bipartisan coalition has pledged to provide much-needed funding to reduce class sizes; to provide crucial repairs for crumbling schools; to improve teacher quality; and to expand HeadStart, after-school programs, Pell Grants, and support for students with disabilities.

I hope the Congress will keep its commitments to America's children. Even in the final days of this session, Congress should remember those first, fundamental obligations – and keep working until it fulfills them. Now is not the time to walk away from that agreement, especially when we are so close to the finish line. A lot is at stake here: the condition of schools, the quality of our teachers, and, most important, the education of our children.

Today, I am releasing a report that shows exactly what's at stake for children in all 50 states. If Congress fails to pass this bipartisan education budget, California, for example, stands to lose almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in additional education funds.

New York could lose more than \$40 million for more after-school and summer school programs. Illinois could lose nearly \$70 million in added support for students with disabilities.

With America facing the largest student enrollment in history, and with an historic agreement so close to conclusion, there is no reason why we should not work together – across party lines – to get the job done.

If we work together, we can complete this year's unfinished business, and prepare our nation to meet the challenges of the years to come. We can meet America's other pressing priorities, from the health of our families to the safety of our neighborhoods; and ensure that the circle of opportunity continues to expand, until it embraces Americans from every corner of our country, and every walk of life.

The holiday season is the perfect time to reflect on the values that unite us. As families, there is nothing we hold more dear than our children; and, as a nation, there are few things more important than our children's education. A good education, as every parent knows, is a gift that keeps on giving – for an entire lifetime. So let's join together – as two parties, as one country – and give our children the schools and the teachers and the future they deserve.

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Draft 12/01/00 5:15pm
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Today, I am releasing a report that shows exactly how important this education budget is to students in all 50 states. If Congress fails to pass this bipartisan budget, California, for example, stands to lose almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in additional education funds. New York could lose more than \$40 million for more after-school and summer school programs. Illinois could lose nearly \$70 million in added support for students with disabilities.

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[In that spirit, I have contacted the leaders of both parties in Congress, and invited them to meet me here at the White House in the next few days. I want to ensure that we stand – and work – together on the common ground we reached before the election.]

If we work together, we can complete this year's unfinished business, and prepare our nation to meet the challenges of the years to come. We can meet America's other pressing priorities, from the health of our families to the safety of our neighborhoods; and ensure that the circle of opportunity continues to expand, until it embraces Americans from every corner of our country, and every walk of life.

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Thanks for listening.

Bethany Little

Draft 12/01/00 4:15pm
Jeff Shesol

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
RADIO ADDRESS ON THE EDUCATION BUDGET
THE WHITE HOUSE
December 2, 2000**

Good morning. This weekend, Congress is on its way back to Washington after an extended break. Today, I want to tell you ~~why it's so~~ how important it is that we get right back to business, and fulfill our responsibility to give our children a world-class education.

Earlier this year, I sent Congress a budget that would make vital investments in education. It's a budget that puts our children first: by investing more in our schools and demanding more from them... by modernizing old schools, building new ones, and reducing class sizes... by hiring more well-prepared and better trained teachers, expanding after-school programs, and turning around failing schools.

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Fortunately, we are already standing on common ground. When Congress left town, we had already reached an historic agreement with members of both parties that would have increased education spending by almost \$8 billion. A broad, bipartisan coalition has pledged to provide much-needed funding to reduce class sizes; to provide crucial repairs for crumbling schools; to improve teacher quality; and to expand HeadStart, after-school programs, Pell Grants, and support for students with disabilities.

I hope the Congress will keep its commitments to America's children. Even in the final days of this session, Congress should remember those first, fundamental obligations – and keep working until it fulfills them. Now is not the time to walk away from that agreement, especially when we are so close to the finish line. A lot is at stake here: the condition of schools, the quality of our teachers, and, most important, the education of our children.

Today, I am releasing an analysis report that shows exactly how important this education budget is to students in all 50 states. If Congress fails to pass this bipartisan budget, California, for example, stands to lose almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in additional education funds. New York could lose more than \$40 million for more after-school and summer school programs. Illinois could lose nearly \$70 million in added support for students with disabilities.

With America facing the largest student enrollment in history, and with an historic agreement so close to conclusion, there is no reason why we should not work together – across party lines – to get the job done. Not passing this bipartisan budget could deny students as much as \$8 billion in much-needed support for their education.

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Thanks for listening.

RADIO
ADDRESS 12/2

Bethany 65543

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Loretta mtg. 11/30 11:00 am

Call Mary

Picei-
aggregate

Zaper - Bethany
on rpm Fri.

- Set up budget
- Release ed state - by state
how ed. state wd suffer if it falls through

Goal: people need reminders

Public
respons.

Old yr's business incomplete

Before the elections, Congress left
critical work undone

2) we did have big bipart. agree on...

* - ed (hist. ed. budget)

- get quotes from Haskett, etc.)

- Headstart, child care (Chow)

3) failure → (some in Congress are talking
fewer kids, teachers, etc. about
6-mo. CR)

4) drive by — but be generic

- crime (today)

- Arms

- don't
get into
this
spec.)

Mary have ~~asked~~ called leaders by Sat.
and asked for a Mon. or Tues. mtg.
— if so, mention

→ 9:30 NW gate

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*Cong
broke
for
election
w/o passing*

*+ it
still has time to*

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*what's at stake
for kids
pump
up*

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Draft 12/01/00 3:45pm
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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
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THE WHITE HOUSE
December 2, 2000

Good morning. The holiday season is upon us; and as we count the days toward the new year, I want to talk to you about finishing last year's business, and fulfilling our responsibility to our children and their schools.

Earlier this year, I sent Congress a budget that would make vital investments in education. It's a budget that puts our children first: by investing more in our schools and demanding more from them... by modernizing old schools, building new ones, and reducing class size... by hiring more and better trained teachers, expanding after-school programs, and turning around failing schools.

That was back in February. Ten months have passed since then; three seasons have turned; and Congress, unfortunately, has yet to pass an education budget. When Congress left town before Election Day, it left this piece of critical national business unfinished. The overtime clock is still ticking; our children are still waiting. And this week, when Congress returns to Washington, it should seize this last opportunity to pass an education budget. It should, at long last, fulfill this basic obligation to the people – to the children – we were all sent here to serve.

Fortunately, we are already standing on common ground. When Congress left town, our administration had already reached a historic agreement with members of both parties. A broad, bipartisan coalition has pledged to provide much-needed funding to reduce class size; to provide crucial repairs for crumbling schools; to improve teacher quality; and to expand after-school opportunities, ^{pell grants,} ^{access to college,} and support for ^{children} ~~children~~ with disabilities. *Hedman* ~~call~~

I hope the Congress will keep its commitments to America's children. Even in the final days of this session, Congress should remember those first, fundamental obligations – and keep working until it fulfills them. I hope Congress won't ^{walk} ~~back~~ away when we are so close to the finish line. Because if Congress backs ^{out of} away from the commitments it ^{has} made, it would be backing away from our schools, our teachers, and, most important, our students. *as some have suggested*

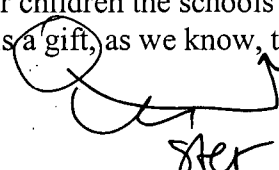
If Congress abandons this agreement ~~If Congress walks away, it would mark a costly retreat from their responsibilities. And it's our children who would pay the highest price. Today, I am releasing a set of reports that shows exactly how important this education budget is to students in every state in America. If Congress fails to pass this bipartisan budget, California, for example, stands to lose almost three-quarters of a billion dollars in additional education funds. New York could lose more than \$40 million for more after-school and summer school programs. Illinois could lose nearly \$70 million in added support for students with disabilities.~~

^{Final}
In the ~~last~~ days of this Congress, passing an education budget has to be our first priority. With America facing the largest student enrollment in history, and with a historic agreement so close to conclusion, there is no reason why we cannot work together – across party lines – to get the job done.

[In that spirit, I have contacted the leaders of both parties in Congress, and invited them to meet me here at the White House in the next few days. I want to ensure that we stand – and work – together on the common ground we reached before the election.]

Working together, we can complete this year's unfinished business, and prepare our nation to meet the challenges of the years to come. Working together, we can meet America's other pressing priorities, from the health of our families to the safety of our neighborhoods; and ensure that the circle of opportunity continues to expand, and includes more and more Americans from every walk of life.

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J. Michael Smith

PRESIDENT CLINTON URGES CONGRESS TO KEEP HIS COMMITMENT AND COMPLETE THIS YEAR'S EDUCATION BUDGET

December 2, 2000

Today, in his weekly radio address, President Clinton will call on the returning Congress to finish the nation's work it has left undone for over two months. The President's remarks will focus on the bipartisan education agreement reached in November as one example of crucial work that Congress cannot ignore. The President will urge the Republican leadership to pass the bipartisan agreement that would increase federal support for improving education by nearly \$8 billion, and to further bipartisan cooperation by passing school modernization tax legislation that has the support of 231 members of the House of Representatives, a bipartisan majority. He will also release an analysis by the U.S. Department of Education that illustrates the amount of federal education funding each state stands to lose if Congress backtracks on the budget consensus that had been negotiated before the election.

KEEPING OUR COMMITMENT TO KIDS. Shortly before Congress adjourned in November, a reasonable bipartisan agreement was reached – only to be abandoned at the last minute by the Republican leadership. If Congress fails to finish this crucial budget that is already months late, they will put at risk an historic increase in education investments at a time when the American public considers education one of its highest priorities. Backing away from the consensus budget plan and freezing funding at FY 2000 levels would jeopardize critical increases agreed to by budget negotiators on both sides, including:

- **\$1 Billion for Urgent Repairs.** Turning back on the bipartisan agreement would eliminate the landmark emergency repair fund established to help school districts repair roofs, heating and cooling systems, and electrical wiring in thousands of schools.
- **\$547 Million for Expanded After-School Opportunities.** Approximately 850,000 children and adults will not have access to extended learning opportunities in after-school centers if Congress does not pass the agreed upon budget plan which more than doubled investments in after school to \$1 billion.
- **\$450 Million for Additional Class Size Reduction Teachers.** Without this additional funding, school districts will be unable to hire approximately 12,000 new teachers to help reduce class sizes for nearly 650,000 students in the early grades. 1.7 million children across the country are already benefiting from smaller classes.
- **\$639 Million for Improving Basic Skills.** Targeted Title I services aimed at helping disadvantaged students reach high standards will be withheld from over 900,000 students if the bipartisan agreement is not passed.
- **\$250 Million for Updating Teacher's Skills.** Nearly 15,000 school districts will be shortchanged the desperately needed \$250 million increase in Eisenhower Teacher Professional Development grants, which would help reduce the number of uncertified teachers and teachers not trained in the subjects they are teaching.
- **\$116 Million to Help Turn Around Failing Schools.** Over 2,300 failing schools will not get extra resources to turn around low academic performance if Congress does not pass the agreed upon budget plan.
- **\$125 Million in GEAR UP College Preparation Increases.** Without the \$125 million increase in funding, approximately 600,000 low-income middle and high school students will be denied access to the tutoring, counseling and mentoring they need to prepare for college, and continuation grants could not be fully funded.
- **\$1 Billion in Head Start Increases.** Approximately 70,000 fewer low-income children will be able to participate in early, comprehensive development and family services if Congress reneges on its commitment.
- **\$1.7 Billion in Special Education Increases.** Without the increases in the consensus budget, States will not receive a \$1.7 billion increase to assist in educating over 6 million children with disabilities.
- **\$1.4 Billion for Pell Grant Increases.** The maximum Pell grant scholarship for needy students would not increase by \$500, to \$3800, denying increased aid to nearly 4 million low-income college students.

STATES COULD LOSE CRITICAL INCREASES FOR EDUCATION. The President will release a set of state-by-state analyses of the nearly \$8 billion in education funding that would be lost if Congress does not act to pass the consensus budget. Among the five largest states, California could lose almost \$715 million in additional education funds, Texas could lose more than \$100 million in support for emergency school repairs, New York could lose more than \$40 million for more after school and summer school programs, Florida could lose almost \$20 million to hire additional high-quality teachers to reduce class sizes in the early grades, and Illinois could lose almost \$70 million in additional support to educate students with disabilities.



EMABARGOED UNTIL
December 2, 2000 at 10:06 a.m.

Contact: Alexander Wohl
(202) 401-3026

ALMOST \$8 BILLION INCREASE IN EDUCATION FUNDS AT RISK IF CONGRESS DOES NOT ACT

As Congress returns on Monday to finish the federal budget more than two months late, millions of schoolchildren across the country are still waiting for increases in education funding. The bipartisan agreement abandoned by the Republican leadership when they adjourned in November would increase federal education investment by almost \$8 billion.

"When Congress left town prior to Election Day, it left some very important unfinished business," said U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley. "When members come back to Washington they need to put politics aside and finish this piece of the nation's business by passing an education budget that includes the increases in the bipartisan agreement."

The budget agreement set aside by Republicans in Congress included new funding to reduce class size; to provide emergency repairs for run down schools; to increase after-school opportunities; to improve teacher quality; to help turn around low-performing schools, to strengthen support for children with disabilities, and to expand access and funding for college. However, at the very last minute, the agreement did not receive the support of the congressional leadership. Failure by Congress to pass this bipartisan budget would demonstrate their willingness to put partisan politics ahead of America's children.

Almost \$8 billion in new funding for education is in jeopardy if the Congress fails to act on the FY2001 budget, including increases in a number of key areas, including:

Reducing Class Size with the third installment to hire and train 100,000 new teachers over seven years to reduce class sizes in early grades to 18 students per class: + 450,000,000

Upgrade Teacher Skills and Quality with Eisenhower Professional Development State Grants that help teachers improve their skills in core academic subjects and reduce the number of uncertified and out-of-field teachers: + \$250,000,000

Improve Reading and Math by increasing Title I Grants to local education agencies which help disadvantaged students learn the basics and achieve high standards: + \$639,000,000

School Renovation Grants would provide support for emergency repairs, such as repair of roofs, plumbing and electrical systems, meeting fire and safety codes; a portion of the funds will also go to technology and special education activities: + \$1,000,000,000

21st Century After-School Programs offer families a safe place for their children to learn during after-school and summertime hours: + \$547,000,000

Strengthen Accountability by accelerating state and local efforts to improve the lowest performing Title I schools with reforms ranging from intensive teacher training to required implementation of proven reforms to school takeovers: + \$116,000,000

Comprehensive School Reform help schools develop or adapt comprehensive school reform models that are based on reliable research and effective practices: + \$40,000,000

Special Education Grants to States assist states in providing a free appropriate public education to more than 6.3 million children with disabilities nationally: + \$1,700,000,000

Pell Grants provide grant assistance to help low-income undergraduate students attend college: + \$1,400,000,000 (an increase of \$500 in the maximum Pell grant)

Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants provide grant assistance to low-income undergraduate students: + \$60,000,000

Federal Work-Study helps undergraduate and graduate students pay for college through part-time work assistance: + \$77,000,000

GEAR UP prepares low-income middle and high school students for college by providing tutoring, counseling, and financial aid: + \$125,000,000

"I hope that when Congress returns to work next week, it will move forward with this nearly \$8 billion increase and go one step further to pass school modernization tax legislation." Riley said, "It would be incredibly irresponsible for Congress to adjourn yet again without addressing America's priorities."

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