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PAGES (including cover): 7

Comments:

FYI - Obey amendment
on School Violence, offered
on Kosovo Supp in full Committee
yesterday - failed on voice

OBHEY SAFE SCHOOLS AMENDMENT

Obey Amendment

\$ in Millions

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative

(Comprehensive School Violence Prevention Program)

Education, Safe and Drug Free (SDF) Schools Program	35
HHS, Center for Mental Health Services	50
Justice, COPS in Schools	135
Justice, OJJDP	5
Subtotal, Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative	<u>225</u>

SDF School Emergency Response to Violence 12

(Rapid Response Assistance to Schools in Crisis)

SDF Middle School Violence Prevention Coordinators 65

(Drug and Violence Prevention Coordinators at Middle Schools)

SDF Formula Grants to School Districts 90

(State/School Formula Grants for Drug and Violence Prevention)

School Action Grants (HHS Center for Mental Health) 3

(Early Intervention Planning Grants to Communities)

Total Funding 395

Education, Safe and Drug Free Schools	202
HHS, Center for Mental Health Services	53
Justice, COPS	135
Justice, OJJDP	5

OBEY SAFE SCHOOLS AMENDMENT

The tragic events at Littleton, Colorado last week have shocked the entire nation. Our entire nation mourns the tragic deaths of 14 students and 1 teacher at Columbine High School - a level of violence to a magnitude that we have never seen before in our schools. If Littleton, Colorado isn't a wake up call, I don't know what is.

While we are fighting the war in Kosovo, we also should be waging war on school violence here at home. Fifty million school children are now in their formative years, and we will continue to see record school enrollments over the next several years. We need to respond quickly to these incidents which are of a different nature and magnitude than we have seen before. We have to refocus our efforts to improve school discipline, reduce teen drug and substance abuse, and prevent violence on and around school grounds - they must move to the top of our education agenda. Our schools and communities need help to provide a safe and secure learning environment for all of America's children, and they need that help now.

This amendment cuts out \$395 million in excess military construction add-ons in the Chairman's bill not directly related to the Kosovo crisis, and, instead, reallocates these resources to help our schools curb and prevent tragic episodes like those in Littleton, Colorado; West Paducah, Kentucky; Pearl, Mississippi; Jonesboro, Arkansas, and Springfield, Oregon.

There are two military construction cuts. First, the NATO infrastructure funding is reduced \$49 million to the amount of the President's request, \$191 million. This is our contribution to NATO construction requirements. By NATO agreement, our share of these projects is 26% of the total. With new NATO partners, I'd expect us to be lowering our share a bit, but the Chairman's amendment boosts our contribution to almost a third. This isn't right. With my amendment we will still pay our fair share, and the money would be available right away under this emergency supplemental.

The second military construction cut is \$346 million for what I'd have to call "thin air" projects. The Department of Defense prepares a plan projecting their military construction requirements for the next five years, its called a FYDP. DOD requires detailed proposals, weighs the requirements of the different services, establish priorities, and make very specific plans for future construction. It is a good government practice.

Unfortunately, over fifty of the projects proposed in the Chairman's amendment are nowhere to be seen in the DOD plan. DOD wasn't planning to build them next year, they weren't planning to build them in 2005. So I propose eliminating \$346 million in projects that the Pentagon has never heard of, that might be needed in the long run, but certainly should not be funded as an emergency

Instead, we can use this money to protect our children.

My amendment expands 5 key school violence initiatives across the Departments of Education, HHS, and Justice for a hard hitting, coordinated national campaign against school violence in our nation's schools. Added to existing allocations, a total of \$1.02 billion would be targeted to a war on school violence. The new funds would be used as follows:

- **+\$225 million for a new initiative - Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative - jointly funded by Education, HHS, and Justice to help school districts adopt a comprehensive approach to school violence. This includes \$135 million in new money for the COPS in Schools program to support an additional 1,600 law enforcement officers in elementary and secondary schools throughout our nation.**

These officers provide schools with on-site security and a direct link to local law enforcement agencies. While combining the functions of law enforcement and education, these School Resource Officers perform a variety of functions aimed at combating school violence, from teaching crime prevention and substance-abuse classes to monitoring troubled students to building respect for law enforcement among students.

A key feature of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative is that school districts must work with their mental health and law enforcement partners to: (1) implement a comprehensive plan to provide a safe school environment and prevent school violence, (2) enhance mental health intervention, preventive and treatment services, institute conflict resolution and other effective strategies to curb school violence, and (3) hire additional school resource (police) officers.

Mr. Chairman, the funds identified for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative to date, however, will support only 50 school districts - a tiny fraction of the 15,000 school districts across the country. My amendment will double the number of school districts that will be able to get the intensive help they need for school violence prevention.

- **+\$12 million in the Department of Education to establish a new School Emergency Response to Violence Fund - to help provide rapid response, emergency assistance to schools affected by violent shootings or other violent episodes. This emergency fund would provide help to communities to meet urgent and unplanned needs, such as additional security personnel, emergency mental health crisis counseling, and longer-term counseling to students, faculty and families.**

- **+\$65 million in the Department of Education to hire an additional 1,300 anti-drug and anti-violence coordinators at our middle schools when students are most likely to start destructive behaviors. These coordinators will help schools analyze their drug and crime problems, and identify promising research-based drug and violence prevention strategies. My amendment would allow all 13,000 middle and junior high schools in the country to be served.**
- **+\$90 million in the Department of Education to restore funds cut last year in Safe and Drug Free Schools formula grants that go to 97% of our nation's school districts to help them address drug and alcohol abuse, school violence, and school security.** In the wake of the Littleton, Colorado school shootings, school districts all across the country are now discovering that they will get less money under the Safe and Drug Free Schools core, formula program than they received the previous year. I don't think that is the message we should be sending to nearly 15,000 school districts that receive these funds to support drug, alcohol, and violence prevention activities. These funds help all school districts take a bite out of school crime and prevent drug and alcohol abuse. The program supports conflict resolution programs, drug awareness, and trains teachers to deal with violence. Now is not the time to cut this basic assistance to our schools. **This amendment will benefit nearly every school district by restoring these grants to the previous year's level of \$531 million.**
- **+\$3 million for School Action Grants administered by the HHS Center for Mental Health Services to provide small, start-up grants to help communities and schools plan and build consensus on what mental health strategies they can adopt to prevent youth violence, prevent suicide, and stop aggressive and violent behavior. My amendment increases the number of communities receiving these awards by 30 percent.**

Mr. Chairman, there are no easy answers to the puzzle of how we stop these incidents of violence in our schools, but there is clearly more that we can do. The *Washington Post* reported on Tuesday the results of a *Washington Post-ABC News* poll that indicated: about a third of teenagers have heard a student threaten to kill someone, about 40% say they know students troubled enough to be potential killers, and 42% think their school is not doing enough about school violence. About half of all parents thought that schools should be doing more.

Our schools, students, parents and communities are looking to us for help and leadership. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

**AMENDMENT TO EMERGENCY KOSOVO SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY1999**

OFFERED BY MR. OBEY

On page 21, strike "\$240,000,000" each time it appears and insert "\$191,000,000".

On page 22, strike "\$831,000,000" each time it appears and insert "\$484,641,000"; strike "\$295,800,000" and insert "\$14,330,000"; and strike "\$333,430,000" and insert "\$139,591,000".

On page 23, before the short title at the end of the bill, insert the following new chapter:

**CHAPTER 6 - EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL VIOLENCE
PREVENTION**

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

For an additional amount to carry out title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, \$202,000,000, of which \$190,000,000 shall become available for obligation on July 1, 1999, and remain available through September 30, 2000: *Provided*, That such amount shall be available only for school violence prevention programs in order to assist schools in providing a safe and secure learning environment for students: *Provided further*, That \$12,000,000 shall remain available until expended to help school districts and communities respond to violent deaths and other traumatic crises: *Provided further*, That the entire amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the amount provided shall be available only to the extent that an official budget request, that includes designation of the entire amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to such section 251(b)(2)(A), is transmitted by the President to the Congress

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

For an additional amount for "Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services", \$53,000,000: *Provided*, That the entire amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the amount provided shall be available only to the extent that an official budget request, that includes designation of the entire amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to such section 251(b)(2)(A), is transmitted by the President to the Congress.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

For an additional amount for "Community Oriented Policing Services", \$135,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be used solely for school violence prevention programs in order to assist schools in providing a safe and secure learning environment for students: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the amount provided shall be available only to the extent that an official budget request, that includes designation of the entire amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to such section 251(b)(2)(A), is transmitted by the President to the Congress.

JUVENILE JUSTICE PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other assistance authorized by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended, to be used solely for school violence prevention programs in order to assist schools in providing a safe and secure learning environment for students: *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That the amount provided shall be available only to the extent that an official budget request, that includes designation of the entire amount as an emergency requirement pursuant to such section 251(b)(2)(A), is transmitted by the President to the Congress.