THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 28, 1999

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

I am returning herewith without my approval, H.R. 2587, the "District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2000." Although the bill provides important funding for the District of Columbia, I am vetoing this bill because it includes a number of highly objectionable provisions that are unwarranted intrusions into local citizens' decisions about local matters.

I commend the Congress for developing a bill that includes requested funding for the District of Columbia. The bill includes essential funding for District Courts and Corrections and the D.C. Offender Supervision Agency and goes a long way toward providing requested funds for a new tuition assistance program for District of Columbia residents. I appreciate the additional funding included in the bill to promote the adoption of children in the District's foster care system, to support the Children's National Medical Center, to assist the Metropolitan Police Department in eliminating open-air drug trafficking in the District, and for drug testing and treatment, among other programs.

However, I am disappointed that the Congress has added to the bill a number of highly objectionable provisions that would interfere with local decisions about local matters. Were it not for these provisions, I would sign the bill into law. Many of the Members who voted for this legislation represent States and localities that do not impose similar restrictions on their own citizens. I urge the Congress to remove the following provisions expeditiously to prevent the interruption of important funding for the District of Columbia:

- Voting Representation. H.R. 2587 would prohibit not only the use of Federal, but also District funds to provide assistance for petition drives or civil actions that seek to obtain voting representation in the Congress for residents of the District of Columbia.

- Limit on Access to Representation in Special Education Cases. The bill would cap the award of plaintiffs' attorneys' fees in cases brought by parents of District schoolchildren against the District of Columbia Public Schools under the Individuals with

Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In the long run, this provision would likely limit the access of the District's poor families to quality legal representation, thus impairing their due process protections provided by the IDEA.

- Abortion. The bill would prohibit the use of not only Federal, but also District funds to pay for abortions except in those cases where the life of the mother is endangered or in situations involving rape or incest.

- Domestic Partners Act. The bill would prohibit the use of not only Federal, but also District funds to implement or enforce the Health Care Benefits Expansion Act of 1992.

- Needle Exchange Programs. The bill contains a ban that would seriously disrupt current AIDS/HIV prevention efforts by prohibiting the use of Federal and local funds for needle exchange programs. H.R. 2587 denies not only Federal, but also District funding to any public or private agency, including providers of HIV/AIDS-related services, in the District of Columbia that uses the public or private agency's own funds for needle exchange programs, undermining the principle of home rule in the District.

- Controlled Substances. The bill would prohibit the District from legislating with respect to certain controlled substances, in a manner that all States are free to do.

- Restriction on City Council Salaries. The bill would limit the amount of salary that can be paid to members of the District of Columbia Council.

I urge the Congress to send me a bill that maintains the important funding for the District provided in this bill and that eliminates these highly objectionable provisions as well as other provisions that undermine the ability of residents of the District of Columbia to make decisions about local matters.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 28, 1999.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 29, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Today, I signed H.R. 2490, "Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, FY 2000", a bill that contains several important improvements in family planning and child care. This bipartisan bill will give people who work for the federal government access to more affordable child care and flexibility in family planning. It will require health plans participating in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) that provide prescription drug coverage to provide prescription contraceptive coverage as well, while providing an exception for plans that object to this requirement on religious grounds. The bill also gives government agencies new flexibility that will allow them to make child care more affordable for lower-income Federal employees. While this bill is not perfect, it does show that we can make progress when we work in a bipartisan fashion.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 30, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I have signed into law H.R. 2605, the "Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2000," which provides $21.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for the programs of the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, and several smaller agencies.

The Act provides necessary funding to maintain my Administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and reliability of our Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile without nuclear testing. The Act also provides funding to develop and protect the Nation's water resources.

I am disappointed that the Congress has not included full funding for my request for the Spallation Neutron Source, for additional safeguards and security reforms at the Department of Energy laboratories, or for research and development of renewable energy sources. I am also disappointed that the Congress has provided no funding for the Next Generation Internet and Information Technology Initiatives. Also, I note that the bill contains language that prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from studying the full range of options for salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest. I will continue to work with the Congress on this important national priority. Finally, I am disappointed that the Congress has not enacted my Harbor Services Fund proposal, which would provide a stable source of funding for port and harbor activities and free up funds for other priority projects and programs. My Administration will work with the Congress on options for financing and increasing support for these initiatives in the future.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 29, 1999.

# # #

House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill
Cuts Essential Education, Training and Other Investments
September 27, 1999

Last Thursday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS and Education passed an Appropriations bill that would devastate critical investments in education and training and other programs. The bill would seriously undermine our efforts to strengthen public education, protect workers, and move people from welfare to work. This bill is proof that America's highest priority – improving our schools – remains the Republican Congress's lowest priority.

House Appropriations Bill Guts Critical Investments

- **House Bill Guts Investment in Accountability, Teacher Quality and Class Size Reduction** The House bill provides no funding for class size reduction and fails to address teacher training issues. Instead, the bill folds three programs (Goals 2000, Eisenhower Professional Development and the President's Class Size Reduction plan) into a $1.8 billion block grant, which is $396 million below the President's request for the three programs. By failing to fund class size reduction this bill does not guarantee that the more than 30,000 teachers hired last year can continue teaching in smaller classes and eliminates funding for an additional 8,000 teachers that would be hired under the President's Budget for next year. The bill also fails to invest in proven teacher professional development practices and undermines standards-based reform.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Title I Grants** Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act currently provides much-needed academic support to nearly 12 million children in high-poverty communities. The House bill provides $264 million less than the President's budget for Title I. As a result, 400,000 fewer children in high poverty communities would receive additional educational services. Title I funding is a key component of efforts to help disadvantaged students reach high standards. The House bill fails to fund the President's plan to set aside $200 million of Title I funds to help states and localities turn around or reconstitute failing schools using Title I resources.
- **House Bill Terminates GEAR UP** GEAR UP is a nation-wide initiative to encourage more young people to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard, and take the right courses to go to college. The House bill eliminates funding, compared to $120 million funded last year and $240 million proposed in the President's Budget. Over 260,000 low-income students who received services in FY 1999 to help them succeed in school and prepare for college would receive no such services in FY 2000. The President's Budget extends GEAR-UP services to over 570,000 students in FY 2000.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in After School** The House bill provides only $300 million of the President's $600 million request for After School programs, and would result in the participation of nearly 850,000 fewer students than the 1.8 million served in the President's Budget. After-school programs are one of the most effective ways to help students reach high academic standards and end harmful practices such as social promotion.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Educational Technology** The House bill provides $251 million less than the President's request of $801 million for a variety of innovative educational technology programs. Funds to help all states and thousands of school districts buy hardware and software, train teachers, and link up to the Internet were cut by $25 million. Seven programs are eliminated, including a program to support pre-service teacher training for hundreds of thousands of new teachers. Funding to establish up to 500 Community Technology Centers was cut from $65 million to $10 million.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in America Reads** The House bill cuts the Reading Excellence program by $86 million below the President's request of $ 286 million, which would result in the participation of 330,000 fewer students and undercut efforts to ensure that all children can read independently by the end of the third grade.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Work Study** The House bill funds Work Study at $54 million below the President's request of $ 934 million, which would result in the participation of about 62,000 fewer students and not attaining the President's goal of giving one million students the opportunity to work their way through college by the year 2000.

- **House Bill Cuts Head Start.** The House bill funds Head Start at $507 million below the President's request. The Head Start program has enjoyed bipartisan support for several years, and grown an average of 30,000 children per year since President Clinton took office. Under the Subcommittee's mark, for the first time in over a decade (1987), Head Start participation will not increase. The mark would freeze participation at its current level.
- **House Bill Terminates Youth Opportunity Grants** Youth Opportunity Grants are an initiative to provide comprehensive employment and training assistance to all out-of-school young people in high poverty areas. The program was passed last year as part of the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act. Eliminating this program would deny essential support for up to 58,000 of the most disadvantaged young people in central cities and rural communities across America. The President's budget provides $250 million for Youth Opportunity Grants, which are a critical component of the New Markets Initiative
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Hispanic Education** The House bill barely increases funding for the Hispanic Education Agenda, providing only $53 million of the $444 million increase requested in key programs, such as migrant, bilingual, and adult education, to raise achievement and reduce dropout rates in the Hispanic community.
- **House Bill Cuts Summer Jobs Program and Youth and Adult Training** The House bill provides almost $200 million below the President's request of $ 1.96 billion for Youth and Adult Training. These cuts would result in lost job training, summer employment, and education opportunities to some 60,000 disadvantaged youth, and 38,200 adults would not have access to essential job training and placement services.
- **House Bill Cuts Dislocated Worker Assistance** The House bill cuts Dislocated Worker Assistance by $335 million below the President's request of $ 1.6 billion. The Dislocated Worker Employment and Training program provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help permanently separated workers return to productive, unsubsidized employment. The President's Universal Reemployment initiative would put us on a five-year path toward universal job training services to all dislocated workers, by gradually increasing funding for Dislocated Worker Assistance. Instead of taking a step forward for dislocated workers, the House is proposing a giant leap backward by proposing cuts that will deny 176,000 dislocated workers access to these vital services. The bill also cuts funding for One-Stop Career Centers and Reemployment Services.
- **House Bill Threatens Enforcement of Labor Protections** The House bill freezes or cuts all Department of Labor domestic workplace enforcement programs at or below FY 1999 levels, resulting in a $112 million reduction below the President's request. For example, **OSHA** is cut $51 million below the President's budget. As a result of this cut, some 5,000 fewer OSHA compliance inspections would be performed.
- **House Bill Jeopardizes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** The bill delays the availability of $3 billion in TANF funds (the welfare block grant), sending the wrong message to states who have prudently set aside "rainy day" reserves, and to states otherwise preparing to invest in new programs for welfare recipients with multiple barriers and for those who have already begun the transition to work. Through the first quarter of FY 1999 states have obligated 88% of their TANF dollars and have met all maintenance of effort requirements. By cutting billions from the program, the federal government would undermine the true goals of welfare reform and abandon its commitment to provide a fixed level of funding to states who live up to their commitment to invest their own dollars in assistance to needy families.
- **House Bill Cuts the Social Service Block Grant (SSBG)** The bill cuts SSBG by $471 million below the President's request. SSBG provides funding to states to support a wide range of programs including child protection and child welfare, as well as services focused on the needs of the elderly and disabled.
- **House Bill Eliminates the President's Family Caregiver Support Program** The House bill does not include funds for the President's $125 million new initiative to support those who care for the over 5 million disabled Americans who have long term care needs. The Family Caregiver Program is one piece of the Administration's four-part Long Term Care proposal to provide comprehensive services to support caregivers.
- **House Bill Fails to Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals** The House bill funds the widely supported home-delivered meals program at $112 million, which is $35 million below the President's request. The President's funding level would provide 27 million additional meals to at-risk older adults. These meals allow many of these adults to remain in their homes and communities, avoiding or delaying the need for costly institutionalization.
- **House Bill Cuts Important Health Initiatives** The bill cuts public health priorities, including preventive health, mental health and substance abuse, health care access for the poor, and efforts to reduce racial health disparities and the spread of AIDS worldwide. The bill would also threaten our ability to manage key entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid. It would prevent us from continuing to provide important patient protections to American workers, and improving our nation's organ distribution system.

Education, Labor, Labor/HHS/Education House Subcommittee Mark

(all Program Levels in millions)

	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Budget	FY 2000 Mark	Mark +/- FY 1999 BA	Mark +/- FY 1999 Percent	Mark +/- FY 2000 BA	Mark +/- FY 2000 Percent
Education							
Class Size	1,200.000	1,400.000	0.000	-1,200.000	-100.00%	-1400.000	-100.00%
Goals 2000	491.000	491.000	0.000	-491.000	-100.00%	-491.000	-100.00%
Eisenhower Professional Development	335.000	335.000	0.000	-335.000	-100.00%	-335.000	-100.00%
Teacher Empowerment Act*			1,800.000				
Total (non add)	*2,026.000*	*2,226.000*	*1,800.000*	*-226.000*	*-11.15%*	*-426.000*	*-19.14%*
School-to-Work	125.000	55.000	0.000	-125.000	-100.00%	-55.000	-100.00%
Education Technology	698.000	801.000	550.000	-148.000	-21.20%	-251.000	-31.34%
After School (21st Century Learning Centers)	200.000	600.000	300.000	+100.000	50.00%	-300.000	-50.00%
Title I Grants to LEAs	7,732.000	7,996.000	7,732.000	0.000	0.00%	-264.000	-3.30%
Safe and Drug Free Schools	566.000	591.000	566.000	0.000	0.00%	-25.000	-4.23%
Magnet Schools	104.000	114.000	104.000	0.000	0.00%	-10.000	-8.77%
Charter Schools	100.000	130.000	130.000	+30.000	30.00%	0.000	0.00%
America Reads	260.000	286.000	200.000	-60.000	-23.08%	-86.000	-30.07%
Bilingual Education	224.000	259.000	224.000	0.000	0.00%	-35.000	-13.51%
Adult Education	385.000	575.000	378.000	-7.000	-1.82%	-197.000	-34.26%
Pell Max Award (non add)	*$ 3,125*	*$ 3,250*	*$ 3,275*	*$ 150*	*4.80%*	*$ 25.000*	*0.77%*
SEOG	619.000	631.000	619.000	0.000	0.00%	-12.000	-1.90%
Hispanic Serving Institutions	28.000	42.000	28.000	0.000	0.00%	-14.000	-33.33%
Teacher Quality	77.000	115.000	75.000	-2.000	-2.60%	-40.000	-34.78%
GEAR UP	120.000	240.000	0.000	-120.000	-100.00%	-240.000	-100.00%
Preparing for College	0.000	15.000	0.000	0.000	N/A	-15.000	-100.00%
College Completion Challenge Grants	0.000	35.000	0.000	0.000	N/A	-35.000	-100.00%
Learning Anywhere Anytime Partnerships	10.000	20.000	0.000	-10.000	-100.00%	-20.000	-100.00%
TRIO	600.000	630.000	660.000	+60.000	10.00%	+30.000	4.76%
Special Education Part B Grants to States	4,310.700	4,314.000	4,810.700	+500.000	11.60%	+496.700	11.51%
Impact Aid	864.000	736.000	907.000	+43.000	4.98%	+171.000	23.23%

*The House mark provides $1.8 billion for the Teacher Empowerment Act which would consiolidate class size, Goals 2000, and Eisenhower Professional Development.

Education, Labor, Labor/HHS/Education House Subcommittee Mark

(all Program Levels in millions)

	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Budget	FY 2000 Mark	Mark +/- FY 1999 BA	Mark +/- FY 1999 Percent	Mark +/- FY 2000 BA	Mark +/- FY 2000 Percent
Labor							
Adult Job Training Formula Grants*	955.000	955.000	860.000	-95.000	-9.95%	-95.000	-9.95%
Dislocated Workers*	1,406.000	1,596.000	1,260.000	-146.000	-10.38%	-336.000	-21.05%
Youth Job Training Formula Grants	1,001.000	1,001.000	901.000	-100.000	-9.99%	-100.000	-9.99%
Youth Opportunity Area Grants	250.000	250.000	0.000	-250.000	-100.00%	-250.000	-100.00%
Job Corps*	1,309.000	1,347.000	1,359.000	50.000	3.82%	12.000	0.89%
Right Track Partnership	0.000	75.000	0.000	0.000	N/A	-75.000	-100.00%
School-to-Work	125.000	55.000	0.000	-125.000	-100.00%	-55.000	-100.00%
Other JTPA Programs	238.000	196.000	192.000	-46.000	-19.33%	-4.000	-2.04%
Total JTPA	5,284.000	5,475.000	4,572.000	-712.000	-13.47%	-903.000	-16.49%
Employment Service Grants	822.000	848.000	822.000	0.000	0.00%	-26.000	-3.07%
One-Stop Career Center Grants	147.000	149.000	100.000	-47.000	-31.97%	-49.000	-32.89%
UI State Administration Grants	2,295.000	2,460.000	2,220.000	-75.000	-3.27%	-240.000	-9.76%
Labor Law Enforcement:							
Pension and Welfare Benefit Admin	91.000	102.000	90.000	-1.000	-1.10%	-12.000	-11.76%
Employment Standards Admin	315.000	342.000 **	314.000	-1.000	-0.32%	-28.000	-8.19%
Occupational Safety and Health Admin	354.000	388.000	337.000	-17.000	-4.80%	-51.000	-13.14%
Mine Safety and Health Admin	216.000	228.000	211.000	-5.000	-2.31%	-17.000	-7.46%
Total Labor Law Enforcement							
Bureau of Labor Statistics	399.000	421.000	395.000	-4.000	-1.00%	-26.000	-6.18%
Bureau of International Labor Affairs	40.000	76.000	40.000	0.000	0.00%	-36.000	-47.37%

* Shows program level in FY 2000; about 3/4 of the funds are newly advanced appropriated for FY 2001.

** For comparison purposes, excludes $34 million in transfers in programs from another agency denied by the subcommittee, but restored to the sending agency.

Education, Labor, Labor/HHS/Education House Subcommittee Mark

(all Program Levels in millions)

	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Budget	FY 2000 Mark	Mark +/- FY 1999 BA	Mark +/- FY 1999 Percent	Mark +/- FY 2000 BA	Mark +/- FY 2000 Percent
Health and Human Services							
Administration for Children and Families							
Head Start (program level)	4660.000	5267.000	4760.000	100.000	2.15%	-507.000	-9.63%
Head Start (appropriated level)	4660.000	5267.000	3360.000	-1,300.000	-27.90%	-1,907.000	-36.21%
Child Care & Development Block Grant	1000.000	1182.672	1182.672	182.672	18.27%	0.000	0.00%
LIHEAP	1100.000	1100.000	1100.000	-	0.00%	0.000	0.00%
LIHEAP Emergency Fund Available	300.000	300.000	300.000	-	0.00%	0.000	0.00%
ACF Services	1372.087	1320.953	1375.216	3.129	0.23%	54.263	4.11%
IDAs (non-add)	10.000	20.000	10.000	-	0.00%	-10.000	-50.00%
Violent Crime Reduction Programs	105.000	118.500	105.000	-	0.00%	-13.500	-11.39%
Refugee and Entrant Assistance	435.200	442.600	435.676	0.476	0.11%	-6.924	-1.56%
Social Services Block Grant	1909.000	2380.000	1909.000	-	0.00%	-471.000	N/A
Administration on Aging	882.020	1048.055	881.976	-0.044	0.00%	-166.079	-15.85%
Family Caregiver (non-add)	0.000	125.000	0.000	-	N/A	-125.000	-100.00%
Home-Delivered Meals (non-add)	112.000	147.000	112.000	-	0.00%	-35.000	-23.81%
HCFA Program Level Funding	2,085.932	2,211.152	1,812.050	-273.882	-13.1%	-399.102	-18.0%
Medicare Integrity Program (Prog. Level)	560.000	630.000	560.000	0.000	0.0%	-70.000	-11.1%
Health Care Fraud & Abuse Control (PL)	99.761	120.000	100.000	0.239	0.2%	-20.000	-16.7%
Children's Hosp. Graduate Medical Ed.	N/A	40.000	0.000	N/A	N/A	-40.000	-100.0%
Family Planning	214.932	239.952	215.000	0.068	0.0%	-24.952	-10.4%
Ryan White AIDS	1,410.851	1,510.500	1,519.000	108.149	7.7%	8.500	0.6%
Childhood Immunizations*	447.948	526.167	421.477	-26.471	-5.9%	-104.690	-19.9%
CDC HIV/AIDS	656.590	701.500	657.036	0.446	0.1%	-44.464	-6.3%
Nat'l Inst. for Occupational Safety & Health	199.706	211.849	200.000	0.294	0.1%	-11.849	-5.6%
CDC Race & Health Demonstration Grants	9.997	35.000	10.000	0.003	0.0%	-25.000	-71.4%
CDC Tobacco	73.913	100.913	Not available				
CDC Food Safety	19.476	29.476	Not available				

Education, Labor, Labor/HHS/Education House Subcommittee Mark

(all Program Levels in millions)

	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Budget	FY 2000 Mark	Mark +/- FY 1999 BA	Mark +/- FY 1999 Percent	Mark +/- FY 2000 BA	Mark +/- FY 2000 Percent
National Institutes of Health	15,597.189	15,932.786	16,935.314	1,338.125	8.6%	1,002.53	6.3%
SAMHSA Mental Health Programs	512.129	588.737	519.808	7.679	1.5%	-68.93	-11.7%
SAMHSA Substance Abuse Programs	1,918.141	1,979.868	1,840.523	-77.618	-4.0%	-139.35	-7.0%
Health Care Access for the Uninsured	N/A	25.000	0.000	N/A	N/A	-25.00	-100.0%
Bioterrorism**	159.4	230.362	201.8	42.400	26.6%	-28.56	-12.4%

* Includes funding for global polio & measles included in PHSSEF.
** Best estimates based on materials available; numbers will change.

	FY 1999 Enacted	FY 2000 Budget	FY 2000 Mark	Mark +/- FY 1999 BA	Mark +/- FY 1999 Percent	Mark +/- FY 2000 BA	Mark +/- FY 2000 Percent
Social Security Administration	6,426.000	6,706.000	6,481.000	55.000	0.86%	-225.000	-3.36%
National Labor Relations Board	184.000	210.000	175.000	-9.000	-4.89%	-35.00	-16.67%

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 23, 1999

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The House Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations subcommittee today passed a partisan bill that would seriously undermine our efforts to strengthen public education, protect workers, and move people from welfare to work.

This bill is proof that America's highest priority - improving our schools - remains the Republican Congress's lowest priority. The bill eliminates our effort to hire quality teachers to reduce class size in the early grades. It denies hundreds of thousands of young people access to after-school programs, fails to improve and expand Head Start, cuts the successful America Reads program, cuts educational technology, and eliminates the GEAR UP program, which helps young people prepare early for success in college. It fails to give public schools the resources to succeed, and does nothing to demand accountability for results

The bill also terminates the successful School-To-Work program and Youth Opportunity Grants, and makes deep cuts in programs that help dislocated workers, provide worker protections, and ensure worker safety. It undermines America's efforts to move people from welfare to work by reneging on our bipartisan commitment to the states on welfare reform. It contains a range of unacceptable provisions, which would prevent the government from effectively protecting the health and safety of the American people.

The subcommittee bill would also underfund public health priorities, including preventive health, mental health and substance abuse, health care access for the poor, and our efforts to reduce racial health disparities and the spread of AIDS worldwide. It would prevent us from continuing to provide important patient protections for American workers, and improving our nation's organ distribution system. It also would threaten our ability to manage key entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid.

I warned earlier today that the tax bill sent to me as part of the Republican budget plan would lead to major reductions in key national investments in education and other programs. The subcommittee's bill today is another step in the same misguided direction.

This bill is unacceptable. Our nation's children deserve much better. I sent the Congress a budget for the programs covered by this bill that provided for essential investments in America's needs, and was fully paid for. If this bill were to come to me in its current form, I would veto it. Instead, I urge the House not to pass the subcommittee's bill, and to work on a bipartisan basis with my Administration on acceptable legislation.

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF LABOR ALEXIS M. HERMAN ON HOUSE LABOR/HHS/EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION

"This is a bad bill for American workers. America must close skills gaps and open doors of opportunity for a new economy and a new century. The Administration wants to help Americans to be wage earners for a lifetime: The House Subcommittee won't even give them severance pay. That is why I am alarmed with the bill reported out today. The House slams the door shut on meeting these challenges, and takes a mean-spirited approach - cutting efforts to help the neediest among us.

"At precisely the time when employers complain that they cannot find skilled workers and with pools of untapped potential workers, the House Subcommittee wants to devastate education and training programs both for young people struggling in poverty and for laid-off workers who don't have the skills to start over. At the same time this bill would drastically curtail our ability to improve the safety and health of American workers.

"The House Subcommittee bill would reverse progress on many fronts:

- It would devastate efforts to help workers who are laid off from their jobs through no fault of their own - and deny assistance to an estimated 176,000 workers;
- It would betray last year's bipartisan commitment to needy youth who are trying to land in rewarding careers, cutting training for almost 200,000 poor, at-risk youth, defunding the Youth Opportunity Movement and eliminating the School-to-Work initiative;
- It would severely damage the Department's ability to ensure that our workplaces are safe, that our workers are treated fairly by employers, and that the pensions of American families are safe and secure. Despite the fact that there are 6 million workers hurt on the job eaoh year, this bill singles out OSHA for deep cuts, which would require drastic cuts in the number of inspections of serious workplace hazards.
- It zeroes out a promising initiative to help disabled Americans find and retain jobs.

And the Subcommittee has thrown roadblocks in the way of important new worker protection standards. The Subcommittee proposes to:

- keep workers in the dark about why they are not getting the health care benefits promised under their plans and how they can appeal and get a fair answer without delay; and

- stop the Department from proceeding with important regulations that would protect the wages of construction workers.

"The House action also cuts all funding for the important initiative proposed by the President to raise core labor standards globally, thereby leveling the playing field for American workers. Again, just as the President helped secure unanimous vote by the International Labor Organization this summer on its child labor convention, raising the dialogue internationally on core labor standards, the Subcommittee takes a step backwards. The House Subcommittee also cuts back funding for efforts to combat child labor, ensure equal pay and educate Americans about their pensions.

"Our economy is strong. Our commitment to the workers of today and tomorrow should be, too. America's working families deserve better."

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 1999

Contact: David Frank (202) 401-3026

Statement by U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley
On the vote by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education

At a time when federal investment in education is the highest priority for the American public, the House Appropriations Subcommittee has taken the irresponsible action of cutting our nation's investment in education and slashing the very programs that Americans want. At a time when record numbers of students are enrolled in school, the Republicans have actually cut education funding.

Investment in initiatives to reduce class size and important programs like GEAR UP, which prepares disadvantaged children for college, all would vanish under this Republican budget. Their indiscriminate cuts run from the new basics to the old – cutting everything from education technology to the most basic of all, reading.

This bill also cuts in half the President's request for after-school programs, and it rejects the President's proposal to increase accountability as called for in his State of the Union Address.

On top of all this, the Republican majority has chosen – and let me say in no uncertain terms, it is a choice – they have chosen not to invest a dime to help local communities build and repair schools to replace our aging overcrowded school-buildings.

You'll hear a lot of talk from Republicans about the importance of education. But talk is cheap. When it comes to the end of the day – and that's where we are in terms of the national budget and our investment in education – actions are what matter. By their actions today, it is clear that the Republican majority has failed the American people.

The President today vetoed the tax bill sent to him by the Republicans because it was risky, irresponsible and would force cuts of as much as 50 percent in education funding over the next ten years. Today's budget action is just as irresponsible. I will urge the President to veto this bill.

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DRAFT

House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill Guts Essential Education and Training Investments

September 23, 1999

Today, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS and Education passed an Appropriations bill that would devastate critical investments in education and training and other programs. The bill would seriously undermine our efforts to strengthen public education, protect workers, and move people from welfare to work. This bill is proof that America's highest priority – improving our schools – remains the Republican Congress's lowest priority.

House Appropriations Bill Guts Critical Investments

- **House Bill Guts Investment in Accountability, Teacher Quality and Class Size Reduction** The House bill provides no funding for class size reduction and fails to address teacher training issues. Instead, the bill folds three programs (Goals 2000, Eisenhower Professional Development and the President's Class Size Reduction plan) into the Teacher Empowerment Act block grant and provides $1.8 billion, which is $396 million below the President's request for the three programs. By failing to fund class size reduction this bill does not guarantee that the more than 30,000 teachers hired last year can continue teaching in smaller classes and eliminates funding for an additional 8,000 teachers that would be hired under the President's Budget for next year. The bill also fails to invest in proven teacher professional development practices and undermines standards-based reform.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Title I Grants** The House bill provides $264 million less than the President's budget for Title I. As a result, 400,000 fewer children in high poverty communities would receive additional educational services. Title I funding is a key component of efforts to help disadvantaged students reach high standards. The House bill fails to fund the President's plan to set aside $200 million of Title I funds to help states and localities turn around or reconstitute failing schools using Title I resources.
- **House Bill Terminates GEAR UP** GEAR UP is a nation-wide initiative to encourage more young people to have high expectations, stay in school, study hard, and take the right courses to go to college. The House bill eliminates funding, compared to $120 million last year and $240 million in the President's Budget. Over 260,000 low-income students who received services in FY 1999 to help them succeed in school and prepare for college would receive no such services in FY 2000. The President's Budget would extend GEAR-UP services to over 570,000 students in FY 2000.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in After School** The House bill provides only $300 million of the President's $600 million request for After School programs, serving nearly 850,000 fewer students than the 1.8 million served in the President's Budget. After-school programs are one of the most effective ways to help students reach high academic standards and end harmful practices such as social promotion.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Educational Technology** The House bill provides $251 million less than the President's request of $___ for a variety of innovative educational technology programs. Funds to help all States and thousands of school districts buy hardware and software, train teachers, and link up to the internet were cut by $25 million. Seven programs are eliminated including programs supporting pre-service teacher training, training for teachers in 4,700 middle schools, software development, Star Schools, and Ready-to-Learn Television.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in America Reads** The House bill cuts the Reading Excellence program by $86 million below the President's request of $__ million, serving 330,000 fewer students and undercutting efforts to ensure that all children can read independently by the end of the third grade.
- **House Bill Guts Investment in Work Study** The House bill cuts Work Study by $54 million less than the President's request of $__ million, serving about 62,000 fewer students and not attaining the President's goal of giving one million students the opportunity to work their way through college by the year 2000.
- **House Bill Cuts Head Start.** The House bill funds Head Start at $507 million below the President's request. The Head Start program has enjoyed bipartisan support for several years, and grown an average of 30,000 children per

year since President Clinton took office. Under the Subcommittee's mark, for the first time in over a decade (1987), Head Start participation will not increase. The mark would freeze participation at its current level

- **House Bill Terminates Youth Opportunity Grants** Youth Opportunity Grants are an initiative to provide comprehensive employment and training assistance to all out-of-school young people in high poverty areas. The program was passed last year, as part of the bipartisan Workforce Investment Act. Eliminating this program will deny essential support for up to 58,000 of the most disadvantaged young people in central cities and rural communities across America. The President's budget provides $250 million for Youth Opportunity Grants, which are a critical component of the New Markets Initiative
- **House Bill Cuts Investment in Hispanic Education** The House bill barely increases funding for the Hispanic Education Agenda, providing only $53 million of the $444 million increase requested in key programs, such as migrant, bilingual, and adult education, to raise achievement and reduce dropout rates in the Hispanic community.
- **House Bill Cuts Summer Jobs Program and Youth and Adult Training** The House bill provides almost $200 million below the President's request of $ 1.96 billion for Youth and Adult Training. These cuts would result in lost job training, summer employment, and education opportunities to some 60,000 disadvantaged youth, and 38,200 adults would not have access to essential job training and placement services.
- **House Bill Cuts Dislocated Worker Assistance** The House bill cuts Dislocated Worker Assistance by $335 million below the President's request of $ 1.6 billion. The Dislocated Worker Employment and Training program provides core services, intensive services, training and support to help permanently separated workers return to productive, unsubsidized employment. The President's Universal Reemployment initiative would put us on a five-year path toward universal job training services to all dislocated workers. Instead of taking a step forward for dislocated workers, the House is proposing a giant leap backward by proposing cuts that will deny 176,000 dislocated workers access to these vital services. The bill also cuts funding for One-Stop Career Centers and Reemployment Services.
- **House Bill Threatens Enforcement of Labor Protections** The House bill freezes or cuts all Department of Labor domestic workplace enforcement programs at or below FY 1999 levels, resulting in a $112 million reduction below the President's request. For example, **OSHA** is cut $51 million below the President's budget. As a result of this cut, some 5,000 fewer OSHA compliance inspections would be performed.
- **House Bill Jeopardizes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** The bill delays the availability of $3 billion in TANF funds, sending the wrong message to states who have prudently set aside "rainy day" reserves, and to states otherwise preparing to invest in new programs for welfare recipients with multiple barriers and for those who have already begun the transition to work. Through the first quarter of FY 1999 states have obligated 88% of their TANF dollars and have met all maintenance of effort requirements. By cutting billions from the program, the federal government would undermine the true goals of welfare reform and abandon its commitment to provide a fixed level of funding to states who live up to their commitment to invest their own dollars in assistance to needy families.
- **House Bill Cuts the Social Service Block Grant by $471 million below the President's Request** SSBG provides funding to states to support a wide range of programs including child protection and child welfare, as well as services focused on the needs of the elderly and disabled.
- **House Bill Eliminates the President's Family Caregiver Support Program** The House bill does not include funds for the President's $125 million new initiative to support those who care for the over 5 million disabled Americans who have long term care needs. The Family Caregiver Program is one piece of the Administration's four-part Long Term Care proposal to provide comprehensive services to support caregivers.
- **House Bill Fails to Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals** The House bill funds the widely supported home-delivered meals program at $112 million, which is $35 million below the President's request. The President's funding level would provide 27 million additional meals to at-risk older adults. These meals allow many of these adults to remain in their homes and communities, avoiding or delaying the need for costly institutionalization.
- **House Bill Cuts Important Health Initiatives** The bill cuts public health priorities, including preventive health, mental health and substance abuse, health care access for the poor, and efforts to reduce racial health disparities and the spread of AIDS worldwide. The bill would also threaten our ability to manage key entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid. It would prevent us from continuing to provide important patient protections to American workers, and improving our nation's organ distribution system.