

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Senate Democratic Fiscal Year 2011 CR

Total funding for Labor-HHS programs in the Senate Democratic CR is \$167.6 billion. This compares to \$170.6 billion in the Fiscal Year 2011 President's request, and \$142.5 billion in H.R. 1.

The total for the Department of Labor in the Senate Democratic CR is \$13.0 billion, compared with \$13.9 billion in the President's request and \$10.7 billion in H.R. 1. The total for the Department of Health and Human Services is \$71.2 billion, compared with \$74.3 billion in the President's request and \$61.0 billion in H.R. 1. The total for the Department of Education is \$69.5 billion, compared with \$67.4 billion in the President's request and \$58.5 billion in H.R. 1. (The Education total in the Senate Democratic CR is higher than the President's request because it includes an additional \$5.7 billion for Pell Grants, reflecting the higher costs of this program.)

An accompanying chart lists funding levels for key programs of high interest.

Priorities within the Labor-HHS portion of the Senate Democratic CR include:

- Supporting life-saving biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health.
- Retaining education jobs through the Title I and Special Education state grant programs.
- Preserving a safety net for the most vulnerable Americans, through adequate administrative funding for the Social Security Administration and programs like the Community Services Block Grant and meals for seniors.
- Preventing cuts in the number of children currently in Head Start programs across the country.
- Ensuring that millions of needy students can continue to attend college, by maintaining the maximum Pell Grant award.
- Supporting programs that encourage Americans to serve in their communities and around the nation, such as AmeriCorps.
- Saving taxpayer dollars by cracking down on fraud and abuse in the health care sector.
- Promoting education reform through funding for Race to the Top, Charter Schools and Teacher Incentive Fund.
- Protecting worker safety and health through funding for the Mine Safety and Health Administration and Department of Labor.

No Labor-HHS earmarks are funded in this bill. This includes what are sometimes referred to as "national earmarks." However, unlike H.R. 1, the Senate bill includes funding for several competitively awarded programs for which many current national earmark grantees may apply. In particular, the Senate bill includes funding for the Investing in Innovation program, the Civic Education program, and the Advanced Credentialing program.

The Senate Democratic CR does not include any legislative "riders" that were attached to H.R. 1, such as an amendment that bans funding for the Department of Education regulations on "gainful employment" and numerous provisions that would block health reform.

The Senate Democratic CR makes numerous responsible spending reductions below the President's Fiscal Year 2011 budget request. For example, in addition to eliminating funding in FY 2011 for the Career Pathways Innovation Fund, as the President requested, the Senate CR also rescinds \$125 million in FY 2010 funding for this program – a reduction of \$125 million below the President's request. The Career Pathways program is no longer necessary as mandatory funds are now available for a similar program – the newly created Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training Grant (TAACCC). Congress has provided \$2 billion in mandatory funds over the next four years for the TAACCC.

In addition to earmarks, the Senate CR eliminates a total of 21 existing programs, totaling \$577 million.

The reductions in the Senate CR stand in sharp contrast to the draconian cuts proposed in H.R. 1, many of which are described below.

Title I grants to school districts: The House Republican CR slashes Title I funding by nearly \$700 million, meaning 2,400 schools serving 1 million disadvantaged students could lose funding, and approximately 10,000 teachers and aides could lose their jobs. The Senate Democratic CR, by contrast, would increase funding for Title I by \$100 million, for a total of \$14.6 billion, or \$794 million more than HR 1. The Title I grants program is the foundation of federal assistance to elementary and secondary schools across the country, providing financial assistance to more than 90 percent of the nation's school districts.

Community Health Centers: The House Republican CR cuts discretionary funding for community health centers by \$1 billion, eliminating funding for 127 clinics currently operating in 38 States, reducing current services at another 1,096 centers nationwide and preventing any new clinics from opening. More than 2.8 million people would likely lose access to their current primary care provider and over 5,000 health center staff could lose their jobs. The Senate Democratic CR restores the \$1 billion cut, preserving both the vital services being provided today and the planned expansion of centers estimated to treat over 7.5 million new patients this year.

Head Start: The House Republican CR cuts over \$1 billion from the Head Start program, which provides comprehensive early childhood services—education, nutrition, health, social, and emotional development—to nearly one million low-income children and their families. The House bill would eliminate those services for about 218,000 children and their families next year (an almost 25 percent reduction), close 16,000 Head Start classrooms, and lay off 55,000 teachers, teacher assistants and related staff. The Senate Democratic CR provides \$7.57 billion for Head Start (over \$1.4 billion more than the House Republican CR), which is enough to maintain the number of children currently in Head Start classrooms and prevent any job losses.

Child Care: The House Republican CR cuts \$40 million from the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG), just as child care funding provided in the 2009 Recovery Act is coming to an end. The House CR would eliminate child care subsidies for about 165,000 low-income children, significantly reducing the availability and affordability of quality child care for low-income families. These are families that are working, or in some cases looking for work, and

that depend on those subsidies to do so. The Senate Democratic CR provides \$2.47 billion for the CCDBG, \$380 million more than the House Republican bill.

Social Security: The House Republican CR cuts funding for the Social Security Administration's administrative expenses by \$125 million below last year's funding level. This would force the SSA to freeze hiring across the agency and possibly furlough employees, at a time when the number of Americans filing for disability and retirement benefits is at record levels. As a result, every American filing benefits this year would wait longer for the benefits they've earned, backlogs of those with pending disability claims and hearings would increase significantly, and waiting times at field offices and SSA's 1-800 number would jump dramatically. The Senate Democratic CR, by contrast, provides \$600 million more than the House Republican proposal (including rescissions). Compared to the House CR, it will allow SSA to process about 300,000 more initial disability claims and 150,000 more disability hearings, and prevent delays in beneficiaries receiving their retirement benefits.

Student Aid: The House Republican CR slashes the maximum annual Pell Grant award by \$845 to \$4,705, a 15 percent cut below the current maximum of \$5,550. This would have a devastating impact on the roughly 8 million needy students that qualify for the maximum award – nearly 90 percent of whom come from families making less than \$40,000 a year. The Republican bill also eliminates Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), which provide up to \$4,000 in grant assistance each year to 1.3 million needy students. The Senate Democratic CR, by contrast, maintains the maximum Pell award level of \$5,550. It also maintains the \$757 million for the SEOG program. Combined with matching funds provided by colleges and universities, this level of funding for SEOG will make available nearly \$1 billion in financial aid.

Job Training Programs: The House Republican CR eliminates Federal funding for Adult Training, Dislocated Worker Assistance and Youth Training programs. These programs provide job training and reemployment services to about 8 million Americans every year, including disadvantaged youth and workers who have lost their jobs as a result of plant closings or mass layoffs. The bill also cuts funding for Dislocated Worker National Emergency Grants (NEGs) by \$200 million, or 87 percent. NEGs assist workers impacted by events like industry wide layoffs and natural disasters by offering supports such as affordable health care or training to enter new jobs. By contrast, the Senate CR provides \$3.2 billion (the same as the current level) for these programs.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting: The House Republican CR eliminates the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The vast majority of CPB funds go directly to local public radio and television stations to support their programming. The House bill would effectively cut the operating budgets of every local station across the country by an average of 15 percent. In addition to providing quality content and programming for the communities they serve, public television and radio stations directly support almost 17,000 jobs. The Senate Democratic CR maintains funding at currently appropriated levels.

Community Services Block Grant: The House Republican CR cuts \$305 million from the Community Services Block Grant, a formula grant to states to provide a variety of services

designed to reduce poverty and assist low-income participants achieve self-sufficiency. It is a core source of funding for a network of 1,100 local community action agencies across the country that serve as a central source of assistance for low-income populations and administer a variety of Federal, state and local programs such as Head Start, LIHEAP, CCDBG, and weatherization assistance. The Senate Democratic CR maintains funding at the FY10 enacted level of \$700 million.

Health Professions: The House Republican CR drastically cuts training programs for nursing and other health professions by 29 percent below the FY10 enacted level at a time when the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the demand for nurses will rise 22 percent in the next 7 years. These are good jobs, available now, yet this bill proposes to cut support for training even as nursing schools turn away more than 50,000 students every year due to lack of funds. The Senate Democratic CR restores that cut and adds an additional \$100 million for this critical need.

Worker Safety and Health: The House Republican CR cuts \$99 million, or nearly 18 percent, from the budget for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, including \$35 million that OSHA has used to provide information access to the public and agency stakeholders, such as the OSHA website, and systems that support agency operations, from enforcement to compliance assistance to management and operations. The House Republican CR cut includes \$41 million or more than 18 percent less for OSHA's enforcement budget, which could cause the agency to shut down for several months this year. The Senate CR maintains current funding of \$558.6 million for OSHA.

The House Republican CR provides \$356 million for the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), a reduction of \$1.5 million. This level means efforts to improve the safety and health of miners, reduce the backlog of appeals of mine safety violations, and conduct mandated safety and health inspections will be undermined. The Senate CR provides \$367 million for MSHA, an increase of \$10 million over last year's level.

Child Labor: The House Republican CR cuts \$40 million, or more than 40 percent, from the budget for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs (ILAB). These funds have supported the U.S. contribution to the International Labor Organization's program on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor internationally. More than 100,000 children around the globe benefited last year from these funds, and this cut means less support for continued efforts. The Senate CR maintains current funding of \$92.7 million for ILAB.