



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Dave Obey (D-WI), Chairman

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Reading First an Utter Failure

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WASHINGTON – Today the Department of Education released a report which found the President’s Reading First Program is an utter failure.

The government has spent over \$6.4 billion on the program to date.

“It’s no surprise that Reading First has been a failure,” said Dave Obey (D-WI), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. “This administration likes to criticize Congressional earmarks as though decisions made by the President are somehow pure and made without political influence. But previous reports have shown that a political friend of the administration has a greater chance of raiding the Reading First cookie jar than the best program on the block that doesn’t have special political connection.”

“Today’s report just shows that you get results by investing in programs that work, not rewarding your buddies,” Obey concluded.

Last year Congress cut funding for The Reading First Program after audits by the Department of Education’s Inspector General documented that the Reading First program was corrupted by mismanagement, conflicts of interest, and efforts to strong-arm school districts into using favored reading publishers and reading approaches.

Read the report: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pdf/20084016.pdf>

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