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**KENNEDY: PRESIDENT BUSH'S ACTION ON GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS NEEDS TO
CATCH UP WITH HIS RHETORIC**

Washington, DC; Today Senator Kennedy issued the following statement in response to President Bush's focus on his competitiveness initiative. Also below are fact sheets on the President's proposed budget cuts to education and research.

"The President's remarks indicate a willingness to do more to keep America competitive in this changing world economy, but his actions need to catch up with his rhetoric. His recent budget proposes the largest cuts ever in the Department of Education, and he cuts other critical programs as well, such as basic research and NSF teacher training programs in math and science. China, India and the rest of the world are playing for keeps, and we need more than half measures to keep up."

BUSH EDUCATION BUDGET JEOPARDIZES AMERICA'S FUTURE
Proposes Largest Cut to Education in the History of the Department of Education

President Bush's Fiscal Year 2007 budget proposes the largest cut to federal education funding in the 26-year history of the Education Department – a \$2.2 billion reduction, a nearly 4% cut below last year. His budget proposal:

- □□□□□ Underfunds the No Child Left Behind Act by \$15.4 billion.
 - Leaves behind 3.7 million children by freezing Title I grants to school districts at \$12.7 billion. As a result, 29 states, including Massachusetts, are projected to lose funding. In Massachusetts, 54,478 children would be left behind.
 - Leaves behind 2 million students who are eligible to receive after-school services, by flat-funding the program at \$981 million.
 - Flat funds the NCLB Math and Science Partnership teacher training program.
- □□□□□ Provides \$100 million for a new voucher program for students in schools identified for restructuring under NCLB. After 5 years of being starved of the \$2.5 billion in school improvement grants they were promised, public schools would receive \$200 million in grants to help them meet the goals of NCLB and avoid the need for restructuring.
- □□□□□ Retreats on the government's commitment to students with disabilities, by providing a smaller share of States' total costs for special education for the second year in a row.
 - IDEA funding would increase by only \$100 million, for a total of \$10.7 billion
 - This would provide 17% of the average per pupil cost, less than half of the federal government's commitment, and down from 18% last year and 19% in FY 2005.
- □□□□□ Eliminates the Perkins Loan program, and freezes the Pell grant at \$4,050 for the fifth year in a row, despite the fact that tuition has increased 46% since 2001. In 1975, the Pell Grant covered 80% of the cost of a four-year public education, today it covers only 40%.
- □□□□□ Cuts the Math and Science Partnership teacher training program at the National Science Foundation by 27%, funding the program at \$46 million – \$354 million below the program's

authorized level.

President Bush's modest proposed increases in funding for the No Child Left Behind Act, IDEA, math and science instruction, and new funding for another run at his high school initiative are paid for by eliminating 42 programs (\$3.5 billion), many of which the President proposed eliminating last year, including vocational and technical education, education technology state grants, safe and drug free schools state grants, and programs to improve college access and retention including GEAR UP, TRIO Talent Search and Upward Bound. Once again robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The President's FY 2007 Education Budget Continues his Track Record of Broken Promises:

- □□□□ In 2001, President Bush said he would leave no child behind. But since the No Child Left Behind Act passed, the President and the Republican Congress have shortchanged funding for the law to the tune of \$55.7 billion. The Republican budget bill passed in December cuts funding to \$1 billion below last year's level. This is the second year in a row that President Bush called to end federal funding for key programs that support family literacy, classroom technology, dropout prevention, and smaller learning communities.
- □□□□ For the fifth year in a row, the maximum Pell grant remains a thousand dollars lower than the President promised in 2000. This is the second year in a row that the President called to end the Perkins Loan program and eliminate federal funding for vocational education and programs that support college access and retention.
- □□□□ In December the Senate passed a bill that would have leveled the playing field for needy college students, by adding an additional \$6 billion to help all Pell grant recipients, but the program was rejected in the final Republican budget. The President's budget includes no increase in the maximum Pell grant.

If President Bush were truly committed to helping America meet the challenge of global competition he would:

- □□□□ Fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act at \$39.4 billion, as promised. His proposed \$529 million increase is one-fifth the \$2.6 billion increase promised in the law.
 - Fully fund Title I at \$25 billion, as promised.
 - Fully fund after-school programs at \$2.5 billion, as promised.
 - Fully fund the math and science teacher training programs at the Department of Education at \$450 million, as promised.
 - Fully fund education technology grants at \$1 billion, as promised.
 - Fully fund school improvement grants at \$500 million, as promised.
- □□□□ Stay on track to meeting the federal government's commitment to fully fund its share of special education services by 2011, by providing \$6.3 billion to meet the FY07 funding level promised in the law.
- □□□□ Provide \$1.3 billion for key NSF programs to improve K-12 and postsecondary math and science education, including \$400 million for the Math and Science Partnership program that trains teachers in cutting-edge instruction.
- □□□□ Raise the maximum Pell grant to \$5,100 as he promised in his 2000 election, and increase funding for vocational education and programs that improve college access and retention.

Basic Research Fact Sheet

- □□□□□ The President would have you believe that his American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) is making a significant investment in innovative research when overall federal R&D would increase slightly less than projected inflation under his proposal.
- □□□□□ He makes no **new** serious commitments to invest in R&D.
- □□□□□ The President's American Competitiveness Initiative underfunds basic research. Even where an agency's overall R&D budgets are set to increase, basic research programs would see cuts.
- □□□□□ At the Department of Defense, overall R&D funding will increase by 2.2%, but basic research will be cut by 16.3%
- □□□□□ Yet, it was basic research at the Department of Defense that led to the creation of the Internet, a vehicle that has only fueled more innovation and created millions of jobs.
- □□□□□ While NASA's budget increases by 8% -- most of which is to be used for new space vehicles -- it cuts Solar System Research, Earth and Sun Systems Research, Exploration Technology, Human Systems, Aeronautics and Cross Agency and Education R&D.
- □□□□□ At the Department of Commerce, although the National Institute for Standards and Technology saw a 6.5% increase in its R&D budget, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research budget is cut 6.3%, the Advanced Technology Program is zeroed out, and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership is cut by 55.7%.
- □□□□□ Even DOE which is the hallmark of the President's ACI, makes cuts to critical research programs like biological and environmental research.
- □□□□□ And the President's Initiative keeps the National Institute's of Health funding flat, even after its budget for this year fell for the first time in 36 years.
- □□□□□ We must invest in basic research that helps us attract the best and the brightest to these scientific fields, and that leads to the innovation that creates jobs and moves our economy forward.
- □□□□□ America has long been the world's leader in developing innovative, new technologies and treatments, but we have been losing our edge in recent years.
- □□□□□ Countries like Japan, Ireland and South Korea increasingly recognize the immense potential of basic research for economic growth. China doubled its investment in R&D over the last 10 years – but we increased it by only a third.
- □□□□□ Our investment in federal research investment is shrinking as a share of the U.S. economy – federal R&D investment has plateaued at 1.1 percent of U.S. GDP.
- □□□□□ We can't let this trend continue. To compete and win in this global economy we must strengthen our federal commitment to basic research.