

Health Care and Education

- Ensuring health care for 1.2 million more Americans through community health centers;
- Issuing nearly 1,400 more life-saving medical research grants than the President, to potentially find cures for cancer, stroke, diabetes, Alzheimers' and Parkinsons' disease, with new investments in NIH;
- Strengthening quality education for our children by training 51,000 more teachers;
- Giving extra math and reading help for 117,000 more children than the President funded;
- Increasing the maximum Pell Grant for college to \$4,925--\$875 more than President Bush; and
- Strengthening jobs skills and employment of 173,000 more adults, youth, and dislocated workers.

Expand Educational Opportunities

- **No Child Left Behind.** Provides an increase of \$1.6 billion over 2007 and \$579 million over the President's request for No Child Left Behind programs.
- **Title I.** Gives 117,000 more low-income children extra help with reading and math than the President with an increase of \$1.8 billion over 2007 for Title I.
- **Teacher quality.** Strengthens teacher quality by providing an increase of \$150 million over 2007 and \$250 million over the President's request for teacher quality grants;
- **After-School Care.** Provides after-school opportunities for an additional 130,000 students through an increase of \$100 million over 2007 and the President's request for after-school programs.
- **Children with disabilities.** The bill rejects the President's cut and instead provides an increase of \$509 million over 2007 for Individuals with Disabilities Act. This investment reverses a two-year decline in the federal contribution toward the rising costs of special education for 6.9 million children with disabilities. Under the Republicans, the federal contribution for special education fell from 18.6 percent in 2005 to 17.2 percent in 2007, leaving states struggling to meet these costs.
- **College.** With the \$125 increase in this bill, the maximum Pell Grant for college will have been raised from \$4,050 in 2006 to \$4,925, a \$875 increase under Congressional Democrats. This would benefit more than 5.5 million students struggling to get into the middle class.
- **Head Start.** The Conference agreement rejects the Bush proposal to deny Head Start services for 13,500 kids and provides \$254 million over Bush and \$154 million over FY07.

Better Health Care

- **Expanding health care/community health centers.** To address the 46.6 million Americans without health insurance, the conference agreement enables community health centers to serve an additional 1.2 million uninsured Americans by investing 11 percent more than 2007 and the President's request.
- **New investments in life-saving medical research.** Medical research at NIH offers hope to millions of American families – with groundbreaking research into diseases such as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's. For FY 2008, the President proposed a cut of \$480 million below 2007. Instead, this bill provides an increase of \$1.1 billion over 2007 – allowing NIH to support 1,400 more research grants than the President.
- **Expanding health care/state programs.** Provides \$50 million for a new initiative of state health access grants – providing start-up grants to states that are ready with plans to expand health care coverage to targeted groups and \$50 million for an initiative to assist states in

providing high-risk insurance pools to support affordable insurance for almost 200,000 people who are medically high-risk.

- **Rural health.** Rejects the President's \$142 million cut and provides \$24 million over FY07 for health services to 775,000 rural residents in underserved areas and to support over 1200 small, rural hospitals.

Strengthen the Skills of America's Workers & Worker Safety.

- **Overall funding.** Rejects the President's budget proposal to slash vital employment and training programs by \$722 million – leaving Americans who want to succeed in the 21st century workforce without vital services they need.
- **Job training and employment assistance.** Rejects the President's proposal to cut worker training and employment assistance by 18 percent -- thereby maintaining these critical services for 173,000 adults, youth and dislocated workers.
- **Worker safety.** To prevent tragedies like the Sago mine incident and strengthen enforcement of worker health and safety laws neglected over the past six years, the agreement increases funding for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (3 percent) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (13 percent).

Other Priorities

- **Investing in community services.** Rejects the President's proposal to eliminate the vital \$630 million Community Services Block Grant, which local communities use to help low-income families get on their feet, such as funding child care, job training, and nutrition – instead providing \$665 million.
- **Help with home heating bills.** The President's budget proposes cutting Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) by \$379 million. The bill rejects this cut – instead providing an increase of \$250 million over 2007, enabling 600,000 more families to receive LIHEAP assistance than in 2007 and 1.5 million more families than the President.

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