

The cuts will also significantly affect the financial security of local public broadcasting affiliates; nearly 70 percent of funding allocated for the Public Broadcasting Corporation is transferred directly to these local stations. With these funds, local PBS stations like WNED and WBFO in my district in Western New York purchase national programs and produce their own local programming. In an age dominated by giant media conglomerates, PBS affiliates are often the only television station offering shows that are specifically targeted to their locality. This local perspective is particularly important in rural areas, like much of my district, that are deemed unprofitable by larger, for-profit media conglomerates. Moreover, Americans overwhelmingly trust and support PBS, even as their respect for the news media at-large has substantially decreased. As the sixth most-watched media outlet, PBS attracts the attention of more than 70 percent of American households at least once a month.

I have received hundreds of phone calls and letters from my constituents in Western New York who are outraged at this targeted attack on public broadcasting. I firmly believe that this Congress has a responsibility to fully support substantive programming for our constituents, particularly our youngest constituents. In an era when partisan bickering and raucous shouting matches have become increasingly prevalent on our Nation's television and radio stations, we have an opportunity to elevate the level of public discourse by supporting programming that seeks not only to entertain but also to educate.

By fully funding public broadcasting, we provide an unbiased, intellectual outlet for those Americans who do not have access to the gilded museums and vaunted cultural institutions of our nation's wealthiest cities. In a broadcast space increasingly dominated by rampant consumerism and the extreme elements of the political spectrum, we have an opportunity to back an enterprise devoted not to the acquisition of greater wealth, but to the betterment of our common culture. We must not allow our partisan differences to obscure the very real contribution of the Public Broadcasting Service, if not for ourselves than for the youngest members of our society.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, Americans have long relied on the Pell Grant program to help pay for higher education. For decades, the program has supported students as they strive to reach their potential. Now, at a time when tuition costs are rising significantly every year, the Pell Grant program has become even more important.

This year it is projected that 1.3 million students will see their Pell grants reduced, and another 90,000 will become ineligible entirely due to the administration formula tax table changes. I was going to offer an amendment with my colleague TIM BISHOP today which would have stopped future formula changes cutting more students. The amendment would have been ruled out of order.

Though the Bush Administration's change to the federal student aid formula was subtle, its effect is not. Just as states are raising the-price tags for higher education, the Bush Administration tells students and their families that they must shoulder a greater share of the burden. Due to the fact the Pell grant formulas effect the rest of student aid the Bush student aid reduction will force students and families

to pay \$3.2 billion more overall for college this year.

And these aid cuts come at a time when tuition is rising at double-digit rates. Even without these cuts, students and working families are straining to pay for higher education. According to the College Board, tuition, room, and board at a 4-year public university costs an average of \$11,354, which is \$824 more than last year and \$1,775 more than 2 years ago. In other words, tuition at public institutions has been increasing by almost ten percent each year. In fact, according to the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, tuition and fees at public institutions in New Jersey have increased by more than 40 percent over the past 5 years. In some states, the increase is more than 60 percent.

Given rising college costs, reducing eligibility for financial aid seems short-sighted at best, and at worst, insensitive and uncompassionate.

Five million students rely on these grants to help pay for college. However because of these changes 36 percent of the 5 million students who receive Pell will have their awards reduced. The Pell Grant program has long embodied what government can and should do: serve as a pillar to lean on for individuals working hard and using their talents to achieve their dreams. Unfortunately and inevitably, these cutbacks have priced students out of college, forcing them to postpone their education and put career goals on hold. And those who do go on to college do so only by taking on larger burdens, including private loans that must be repaid starting immediately after graduation.

We believe the current course is taking us in the wrong direction. At a time when the country faces international competition and outsourcing, at a time when education has never been more important, Congress should be expanding college opportunity, not shrinking it. More than just an individual accomplishment or a point of pride for a family, college education is a public good. Our economy, culture, and communities benefit from having more college graduates.

I ask my colleagues to work with us to ensure that no students see their student aid reduced.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, the Labor-HHS Education Appropriations bill (H.R. 3010) that we are considering today is a sad reflection of Congress' commitment to our Nation, as it represents a gross underfunding of key domestic priorities as well as widens the disparities gap.

Access to an affordable, high-quality, public education helps save our children and generations yet unborn from the clutches of poverty, crime, drugs, and hopelessness. I would ask what could be more important or more necessary than to make sure that those who wish to better themselves through a high quality education are able to achieve that goal unobstructed by the barriers of financial disadvantage?

Regrettably, this bill would close the door of opportunity to more students by providing the smallest increase in education funding in 10 years.

Specifically, H.R. 3010 eliminates 24 important education programs. It freezes funding for after school centers, maintains the broken promise of IDEA full funding, and underfunds Title I by \$9.9 billion below the investment

promised in NCLB, leaving 3 million needy children to struggle without the academic assistance we pledged to provide. Despite the need to expand the affordability of higher education, this bill would provide only a paltry \$50 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award.

Mr. Chairman, I am also deeply troubled by the fact that this bill fails to move America in a direction in which being a minority is not a mortality factor.

The National Institute of Medicine concluded that: Americans of color tend to receive lower-quality health care than do Caucasians; Americans of color receive inferior medical care—compared to the majority population—even when the patients' incomes and insurance plans are the same; and these disparities contribute to higher death rates from heart disease, cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS and other life-endangering conditions.

H.R. 3010 would expand the disparity in health care access by eliminating the Healthy Communities Access Program and ten health profession training programs. It would also cut by \$871 million the Health Resources and Services Administration and freeze nearly all Ryan White AIDS Care programs at a time when AIDS disproportionately ravages communities of color.

H.R. 3010 would also leave the neediest with even less help by cutting the Community Services Block Grant by 50 percent.

Lastly, I know I echo the sentiments of many of my constituents and those around the country when I say—restore the funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). I received almost 200 calls from constituents concerned about the detrimental impact cuts to the CPB will impose.

In my state, the \$100 million rescission in the bill means that Maryland Public Television will be cut by \$1,192,198. For Maryland's public radio stations, it also translates into significant decreases in funding—WBJC by over \$84,000; WESM by almost \$63,000; WSCL by \$55,000; and WEAA and WYPR, both based in my district, by \$78,673 and \$138,029 respectively. The CPB is an invaluable part of the educational and informational structure of our Nation—for both those young and the old. We should not deafen its voice by cutting nearly 50 percent of its budget.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3010 represents a misguided attempt to restore fiscal sanity on the backs of those least able to bear the heavy burden.

Our collective belief in the principles of fairness and equality demand that we do more than the Bush Administration and House Leadership—who only offer hollow promises to address these disparities. We should hold them accountable and force an actual delivery on these promises by restoring funding for the numerous critical domestic programs in this bill. America expects and deserves this accountability.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, today I rise to express my concern that this bill zeroes out funding for the Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) within the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriation Bill. FLAP is currently the only federal program that supports foreign language education at the elementary and secondary school level. It is widely understood that early language education is the key to language proficiency later on.

In order to start addressing the pressing need for skilled linguists and other language

professionals that currently exist, forty of my colleagues and I sent Chairman REGULA and Ranking Member OBEY a letter requesting \$30 million for this program.

In the past, FLAP grants have helped elementary and secondary schools create and maintain high quality language programs in areas such as Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Spanish and French.

Our Nation's language capabilities are underdeveloped because we have neglected to provide the language programs that currently exist. An increase in FLAP funding will pay large dividends in the future as new generations of Americans are exposed to foreign languages and cultures at a young age. Currently the demand for language services in the United States is greater than ever before. For reasons such as economic development, cultural growth and national security, Americans are learning that we need to have much better facility with all languages and dialects.

I understand that language education is one of the most pressing national security issues facing our Nation today. While the Defense Department, the State Department and our intelligence agencies have recently turned their attention to the language problem, their approach remains focused on immediate needs. However, programs such as FLAP are critical in addressing the long term problem by increasing interest in, and access to, language education.

The House has already gone on record this year in strong support of language education when it unanimously approved H. Res. 122, and established 2005 as the Year of Languages. I believe that an increase in FLAP funding would be an appropriate way to further show Congressional support for language education.

As this bill goes to conference I ask my colleagues to join me in demanding funding for foreign language education.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chair may accord priority in recognition to a Member offering an amendment that he has printed in the designated place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Those amendments will be considered read.

The Clerk will read.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, for the purpose of entering into a colloquy, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for yielding to me.

I rise today with the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for the purpose of engaging the chairman in this colloquy about the National Youth Sports Program.

Mr. Chairman, this year due to funding constraints, the National Youth Sports Program was not funded in this appropriation bill. The National Youth Sports Program is an educational partnership that has worked successfully for 37 years. It provides low-income children, ages 10 to 16, a 5-week summer program offering sports and academic programs at colleges and universities nationwide.

This proven program also reaches beyond academics and sports to provide opportunities for learning about good nutrition, developing leadership skills, and developing good character. Currently, the program serves about 76,000 kids at 201 colleges and universities across the country. Participants benefit from close contact with caring adults and learn about discipline and self-esteem that organized sports provide. In addition, NYSP gives many participants the first opportunity to experience a college or university campus from the inside. In my home State of Wisconsin, close to 1,600 young people participate in this program.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I thank him for his work on this bill.

Mr. Chairman, over 36 years of dealing with young people as a coach, recruiting, and as a teacher, I have witnessed an unraveling of our Nation's families. Young people in America currently face more overwhelming obstacles than ever before. Nearly one half of all children grow up without one biological parent or are in some difficult home environment.

The main value of this program, as I see it, Mr. Chairman, is that it does give some very needy children on a college campus great supervision and through the vehicle of sports encourages them to do well in school, provides some character-building experiences. I have experienced personally these programs. I have participated in them; so I see great value and really appreciate the chairman's willingness to at least consider our proposal.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the committee acknowledges the good work that is done by the National Youth Sports Program, but was unfortunately unable to fund this program due to funding constraints.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. REGULA. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Chairman, as the chairman is aware, earlier this year we did have a bipartisan letter of support from over 50 of our colleagues requesting a \$20 million appropriation for NYSP. Given the importance of this program to many children throughout the country and the fact that NYSP has successfully leveraged Federal funding to secure substantial matching community investments, we would hope that if the funding is found on the Senate side that the House could be supportive, that the chairman could be supportive of the funding level coming out of the Senate in conference.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the committee will do its best in the conference if additional funding is available to preserve the National Youth Sports Program.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks at this point.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose the Republican education appropriations bill because it makes huge cuts to our critical education programs.

The Republican education measure will force millions of students, elderly, disabled and veterans to foot much of the bill for billions in unprecedented tax giveaways to corporations and the super rich.

This bill compromises our ability to build a highly skilled workforce and strong economy, just at the time when we need the investment the most.

THE REPUBLICAN EDUCATION BILL CUTS NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

The Republican education bill actually cuts overall funding for No Child Left Behind by 806 million dollars this year.

The timing could not be worse. Schools are continuing to work to meet the challenges of NCLB.

In 2006, all students are to be taught by a highly qualified teacher for the first time.

These reforms are critically needed, yet we aren't meeting our commitment to fund them.

Since its passage, President Bush and the Republican controlled Congress have broken their pledge to fully fund NCLB by a total of nearly \$40 billion.

DENYING CRITICAL MATH AND READING SERVICES TO MILLIONS OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Republican education bill cuts the Administration's Title I funding increase by 83 percent.

As a result, more than 3 million children will be denied critical services to improve their math and reading skills.

Current funding for Title I grants—which help low-income children improve their academic skills—is now \$10 billion short of what President Bush and the Congress promised under NCLB.

THE REPUBLICAN EDUCATION BILL MAKES IT EVEN HARDER TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

Millions of students and families continue to struggle to cover rising college costs and soaring loan debt.

Yet this bill provides no real relief.

Instead, the Republican education bill provides a meager \$50 increase to the maximum Pell grant scholarship—which doesn't even cover the rise of inflation.

In addition, it falls nearly \$1,000 short of President Bush's \$5,100 maximum Pell promise—despite the fact that last year's maximum Pell grant scholarship was worth nearly \$800 less, in real terms, than it was 30 years ago.

As a result, students will shoulder huge new debts as college expenses continue to rise.

The Republican education bill also short-changes teacher training by freezing Teacher Quality State Grants—which have been frozen or cut for 3 years in a row.

As a result, 56,000 fewer teachers would receive the high quality training promised under NCLB.

This education bill marks the first year in nearly a decade that we are actually losing ground on IDEA.

The Republican education bill funds IDEA at less than half of the amount we promised when we enacted the law.