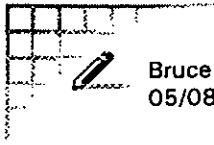


NLWJC - Kagan

DPC - Box 059 - Folder-009

Welfare - College Students

wp-college



Bruce N. Reed
05/08/98 04:05:16 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP

Subject: Re: Your review needed ASAP: Wellstone amendment to let college count as work under welfare law



Do we have to send a SAP on this amendment? Can't we just remain neutral or not vocal?

If we put this in the weekly, he's not going to go along with a SAP against it.

Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

cc: Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP, Laura Emmett/WHO/EOP

Subject: Your review needed ASAP: Wellstone amendment to let college count as work under welfare law

Wellstone will offer an amendment to the higher ed bill next week to let college count as a work activity for up to 24 months. It also increases the amount of time that vocational education can count as work from 12 months to 24 months. I was writing up a paragraph opposing Wellstone when I realized perhaps you would want to put this in the weekly, given the President's ongoing interest/concern about stories that college students on welfare are having to drop out of school.

Below is (1) a draft item for the weekly, in case you want to use it; (2) a draft paragraph opposing Wellstone to put into our SAP; and (3) a description of the amendment.

Possible Weekly Addendum

Wellstone Pushes to Permit College Attendance to Count as Work Under Welfare Law -- Next week, Senator Wellstone plans to offer an amendment to the Higher Education reauthorization bill that would (1) permit college attendance to count toward the welfare law's participation rates for up to two years; (2) increase the amount of time that vocational education can count as work from one year to two years; and (3) increase the overall cap on these activities by not making teen parents subject to the cap.

We plan to oppose these changes because they would weaken the welfare law's work requirements. To date, we have opposed all proposals to weaken these requirements. We believe that the considerable flexibility that the welfare law gives states is adequate to allow them to consider the individual circumstances of TANF recipients. Even when the work requirements are fully phased in, only 50% of the caseload must be working. Since states may count caseload reductions toward the work requirements, the dramatic drops of the past few years will make this goal far easier to meet. States can also help college students to combine work with welfare. We have urged colleges to use the work-study program as one means to that end.

Draft SAP language:

The Administration opposes the Wellstone amendment to weaken the welfare law's work requirements by allowing more education and training activities to count toward the work participation rates than under current law. These work requirements were the product of bipartisan agreement, and it is not appropriate to weaken them. The welfare law gives states considerable flexibility to consider the individual circumstances of TANF recipients.

Description of Wellstone Amendment:

Wellstone amendment:

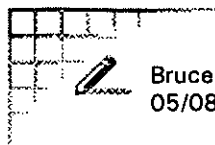
- Increases amount of time that voc ed can count as a work activity from 12 months to 24 months.
- Make post-secondary education a permissible work activity just as voc ed is (for up to 24 months); currently, it never counts as work.
- Permanently pulls teen parents out of the cap. This would increase the effective size of the cap

by 4% beginning in the year 2000, when it would grow from 8% of the caseload to 14%.

Last summer's change to voc ed cap (this is just as a reminder)

- Raised cap on voc ed from 20% to 30% (we opposed this, although not vocally)
- Clarified that the base to which cap applies is those working, not the entire caseload; advocates wanted it be the entire caseload (we supported)
- Pulled teen parents (about 4% of caseload) out of the cap for the first two years of TANF (not an irrational change, since teen parents were eating up most of the cap in the first two years, when the cap was smallest)

Wp - college students



Bruce N. Reed
05/08/98 04:06:25 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana Fortuna/OPD/EOP, Cynthia A. Rice/OPD/EOP

cc: Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP

Subject: Re: Your review needed ASAP: Wellstone amendment to let college count as work under welfare law



Don't get me wrong -- I don't think it makes any sense to support that amdt