



# OFFICE OF SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI FACT SHEET

## **RE-INVESTING IN AMERICA'S PRIORITIES: FY 2008 LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

### Key Points:

- In recent years, the GOP-led Congress significantly cut investments for priorities in the Labor-HHS-Education bill. This year, the President has once again proposed significant cuts – proposing to cut programs in this bill by \$7.6 billion below 2007, after adjusting for inflation.
- The new Democratic-led Congress is determined to reverse the pattern of disinvestment. This bill rejects most of the President's damaging cuts – and instead provides a modest increase of \$4.3 billion (or 3 percent) over 2007, after adjusting for inflation and population.
- Even with the modest increase, the bill is still \$2.9 billion below the 2005 enacted level, under a GOP-controlled Congress and GOP Administration, after adjusting for inflation and population.
- The bill makes college more affordable – including increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$390, which is on top of an increase of \$260 the Democratic-led Congress enacted in February.
- The bill helps raise the achievement levels of America's students – providing \$2 billion over 2007 and \$1 billion over the President's request for No Child Left Behind programs.
- The bill expands access to health care for the uninsured – investing in initiatives that will provide new access to health care for more than 2 million uninsured Americans.
- The bill invests in life-saving medical research – reversing GOP disinvestment and providing an increase for NIH of \$750 million over 2007 and \$1 billion over the President's request.

Today, the House is continuing consideration of H.R. 3043, FY 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. The bill provides \$151.7 billion in discretionary spending in FY 2008. After adjusting for inflation and population, this is a modest increase of \$4.3 billion or 3 percent over 2007. The House is expected to complete consideration of the bill on Thursday, July 19. **Members are urged to vote YEA on the bill.** Following are highlights of some of the provisions in the bill.

**Making college more affordable and accessible.** Overall, the President proposes cutting student financial aid by \$1.2 billion below 2007. The bill rejects this cut and instead provides an increase of \$2 billion over 2007 and \$3.2 billion over the President. The bill increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$390, which is on top of an increase of \$260 the Democratic-led Congress enacted in February. Hence, in two years, the maximum Pell Grant is being raised from \$4,050 to \$4,700, benefiting more than 5.5 million low- and middle-income students. The President proposes eliminating Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOGs) – but the bill rejects this elimination and provides \$771 million, the same as 2007, helping one million students with extremely low incomes attend college. The bill provides an increase of 6.6 percent over 2007 for GEAR-UP, enabling 785,000 middle-school students to participate in 2008, receiving skills and resources to pursue college. In addition, it provides an increase of 4.8 percent over 2007 for the TRIO programs, which expand access and college completion for low-income students, allowing 850,000 students to participate in 2008.

**Helping raise the achievement levels of America's students.** The Democratic-led Congress is determined to help raise the academic performance of America's students. The bill provides an increase of \$2 billion over 2007 and \$1 billion over the President's request for No Child Left Behind programs. This includes an increase of \$1.9 billion over 2007 for Title I, the largest increase in the history of Title I – giving an additional 161,000 low-income children extra help with reading and math. This also includes providing an increase of \$300 million over 2007 and \$400 million over the President's request for grants for improving teacher quality; rejecting the President's proposal to eliminate education technology grants, instead providing \$272 million, the same as 2007; and providing an increase of \$125 million over 2007 and the President's request for after-school programs, providing after-school opportunities for an additional 163,000 students.

**Investing in education for children with disabilities.** The President's budget proposes cutting IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) state grants by \$291 million below 2007. The bill rejects this cut and instead provides an increase of \$509 million over 2007 and \$800 million over the President. 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.

**Expanding access to health care for the uninsured.** It is a disgrace that there are 46.6 million Americans without health insurance. This bill takes some steps to address this national problem -- funding several initiatives that would provide access to health care for more than 2 million uninsured Americans. For example, the bill provides \$200 million or 10 percent more than 2007 and the President's request for community health centers – enabling these centers to serve an additional 1 million uninsured Americans. The bill provides \$75 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. It also includes \$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.

**Expanding 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. And yet the GOP-led Congress has been shortchanging NIH for years. Between 2003 and 2006, the number of new and competing research grants that NIH could support actually dropped by 1,282 – a drop of 12 percent. For FY 2008, the President proposed a cut of \$279 million below 2007. Instead, this bill provides an increase of \$750 million over 2007 and \$1 billion over the President – allowing NIH to support another 545 new and competing research grants over the 2007 level. The increase of \$750 million is on top of the FY 2007 increase of \$620 million the Democratic-led Congress provided in February.

**Investing in the skills of America's workers.** The President's budget proposes slashing vital employment and training programs by \$1.4 billion – leaving Americans who want to succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce without vital services they need. The bill rejects this damaging cut and instead provides an increase of \$148 million over 2007 and \$1.5 billion over the President's request. For example, the bill rejects the President's proposal to cut Job Corps, a successful program to provide intensive training and job placement help for at-risk youth, by \$56 million, which would have resulted in cutting 4,310 student training slots. Instead, the bill provides an increase of \$43 million over 2007 for Job Corps. The bill also rejects the President's proposal to cut dislocated worker training by \$357 million, instead providing the 2007 level of funding of \$1.5 billion.

**Investing in community services.** The President's budget proposes eliminating 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. The bill rejects this cut – instead providing \$660 million. The President's budget also proposes cutting Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) by \$379 million. The bill rejects this cut – instead providing an increase of \$501 million over 2007, enabling 1.3 million more families to receive LIHEAP assistance than in 2007.