

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4110

To require grants to State and local governments for infrastructure and social services needs in the same amount as the amount of relief and reconstruction funds provided to Iraq.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. CLAY, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOLT, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. STARK, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. WEXLER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

A BILL

To require grants to State and local governments for infrastructure and social services needs in the same amount as the amount of relief and reconstruction funds provided to Iraq.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “American Parity Act
3 of 2005”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Administration has requested and re-
7 ceived funds for an ongoing multibillion dollar recon-
8 struction for the Republic of Iraq.

9 (2) In fiscal year 2003 and fiscal year 2004,
10 approximately \$21 billion was appropriated to the
11 Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (“IRRF”), of
12 which \$16.6 billion had been obligated and \$9.5 bil-
13 lion had been spent by late July 2005.

14 (3) The total projected cost of reconstruction
15 through 2007 as estimated by the World Bank, the
16 United Nations Development Group, and the Coali-
17 tion Provisional Authority (“CPA”), is \$55 billion.

18 (4) The President has requested some funding
19 for fiscal year 2006 to be appropriated to traditional
20 foreign aid accounts rather than through the IRRF
21 as in the past, making the total cost of reconstruc-
22 tion less predictable.

23 (5) To date, the IRRF has allocated resources
24 in Iraq—

25 (A) with respect to education—

26 (i) to rehabilitate 2,717 schools;

1 (ii) to train 32,700 secondary school
2 teachers and administrators;

3 (iii) to distribute hundreds of thou-
4 sands of desks, chairs, cabinets, chalk-
5 boards, and kits for primary and secondary
6 schools;

7 (iv) to install satellite internet access
8 and computers at the Ministry of Edu-
9 cation and all 21 Directorates of Edu-
10 cation; and

11 (v) to edit, print, and distribute more
12 than 8.7 million math and science text
13 books;

14 (B) with respect to medical science—

15 (i) to provide potable water for
16 400,000 people each day in Basra city and
17 170,000 in Kirkuk and Mosul;

18 (ii) to vaccinate over 3,000,000 chil-
19 dren under the age of five and 700,000
20 pregnant women;

21 (iii) to provide supplementary doses of
22 vitamin A for more than 600,000 children
23 under two years old;

24 (iv) to renovate 110 primary health
25 care centers; and

1 (v) to train 2,000 health educators,
2 teachers, religious leaders, and youth to
3 mobilize communities on hygiene, diarrhea,
4 breast-feeding, nutrition, and immuniza-
5 tion issues; and

6 (C) with respect to technology and infra-
7 structure—

8 (i) to complete 3 major bridges and
9 36 detailed bridge assessments;

10 (ii) to construct 72 kilometers of new
11 railroad track and facilities between the
12 Port of Umm Qasr and Shuaiba Junction;

13 (iii) to rehabilitate parts of the Sweet
14 Water Canal system, including repairing
15 breaches and cleaning the main reservoir;

16 (iv) to refurbish 14 water treatment
17 plants around Basra serving 1.75 million
18 people; and

19 (v) to conduct marshland restoration
20 activities.

21 (6) The President's budget has eliminated or
22 reduced domestic spending in many areas where re-
23 sources have been allocated in Iraq, including—

24 (A) eliminating 48 education programs to-
25 taling \$4.3 billion;

1 (B) reducing spending on student loans by
2 \$10.7 billion over 10 years;

3 (C) cutting Medicaid by \$60 billion;

4 (D) reducing health professions training
5 from \$300 million to \$89 million;

6 (E) cutting funding for Amtrak by \$847
7 million or 70.2 percent;

8 (F) decreasing funding for the Clean
9 Water State Revolving Fund by \$361 million;

10 (G) suspending or canceling 31 Army
11 Corps of Engineers projects previously re-
12 quested by the President and funded by Con-
13 gress;

14 (H) cutting funding for the Environmental
15 Protection Agency by \$452 million;

16 (I) reducing the budget for First Respond-
17 ers by \$1.6 billion; and

18 (J) eliminating the Community Develop-
19 ment Block Grant program, a funding cut of
20 \$4.6 billion.

21 (7) State and local governments in the United
22 States have their own unmet infrastructure and so-
23 cial services needs.

1 (8) State and local Governments are experi-
 2 encing financial difficulties at a time when a greater
 3 funding burden is being shifted to them.

4 (9) State and local Governments deserve, at a
 5 minimum, the same level of Federal investment to
 6 address infrastructure and social services shortfalls
 7 as the amount of relief and reconstruction funds
 8 provided to Iraq.

9 **SEC. 3. FORMULA GRANTS TO STATES AND LOCAL GOVERN-**
 10 **MENTS.**

11 (a) PURPOSE.—The Secretary of the Treasury (re-
 12 ferred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall in ac-
 13 cordance with this section make grants to States and local
 14 governments for the purpose of assisting grantees in mak-
 15 ing priority expenditures.

16 (b) PRIORITY EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this
 17 section, the term “priority expenditures” means only—

18 (1) ordinary and necessary maintenance and
 19 operating expenses for—

20 (A) primary, secondary, or higher edu-
 21 cation, including school building renovation;

22 (B) public safety;

23 (C) public health, including hospitals and
 24 public health laboratories;

1 (D) social services for the disadvantaged or
2 aged;

3 (E) roads, transportation, and water infra-
4 structure; and

5 (F) housing; and

6 (2) ordinary and necessary capital expenditures
7 authorized by state law.

8 (c) ALLOCATION OF GRANTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 shall establish a formula for determining the alloca-
12 tion of grants under subsection (a). The formula
13 shall give priority weight to the following factors:

14 (A) The unemployment rate in relation to
15 the national average unemployment rate.

16 (B) The duration of the unemployment
17 rate above such average.

18 (C) The median income.

19 (D) The population.

20 (E) The poverty rate.

21 (2) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—In making grants
22 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that
23 not less than one-third of the amount appropriated
24 under subsection (f) is made available to local gov-
25 ernments under the applicable laws of a given State.

1 (d) APPLICATION FOR GRANT.—A grant may be
2 made under subsection (a) only if an applicant for the
3 grant is submitted to the Secretary and the application
4 is in such form, is made in such manner, and contains
5 such agreements, assurances, and information as the Sec-
6 retary determines to be necessary to carry out this section.

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—For the
8 purpose of making grants under subsection (a), there is
9 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for fiscal
10 year 2007 an amount equal to at least the total amount
11 appropriated for fiscal year 2006 in supplemental appro-
12 priation Acts, and other appropriation Acts, for the recon-
13 struction of Iraq. Amounts appropriated under the pre-
14 ceding sentence shall be in addition to, and not in lieu
15 of, other amounts appropriated for payments to States
16 and local governments.

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