

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include tabular and extraneous material on the conference report to accompany H.R. 3010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 559, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 559, the conference report is considered read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of November 17, 2005, at page H10383.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I think we are going to do a bill that will make us proud to be Americans. Why do I say proud to be Americans? Because I think this bill, more than any other, illustrates the compassion of the American people. Why do we say that? Let me give you some examples that are in this bill and are funded.

□ 1230

Special education, programs to help young people that are disabled for many different reasons. It is a matter of caring for them.

Centers for Disease Control, an agency that is in 43 countries around the world watching out for us. We hear a lot about avian flu. We worry about avian flu, but the people that are really doing this are Americans in the Cen-

ters for Disease Control team that is out there in these 43 Nations, ready to stand by and alert us if it becomes a greater problem.

Education. The number one challenge of government today is to educate people to compete in the world of tomorrow. If you read the literature, you find more and more emphasis on the importance of education if a nation is to remain strong, if a nation is to provide a standard of living that the people expect, that we are used to enjoying in this country. The competition is going to get tougher in the years ahead. You only need to read Tom Friedman's book "The World is Flat" in which it is pointed out how much is happening or talk to people that have traveled, as is the case of my State superintendent, to countries in the Far East, and realize how much emphasis is being put on education. We in the United States need to do the same, and this bill recognizes that.

Education, going back to Thomas Jefferson, was designed to give all Americans through a system of public education, an equal opportunity to their future.

Head Start. It is another program under education where we say to children from areas and schools and homes where they may not get somebody reading to them, may not have a chance to get that head start they need going into the school program. Our authorizing committee, I think, took a giant step forward on Head Start in authorizing it to become more than just a welfare program, as was originally envisioned, but actually providing that people that man the Head Start program have some experience in education, that they do more than teach. The literature makes it very clear that education does not start at the first grade or even for that matter in the period ahead of that. It starts early, early on, and Head Start is another example of the compassion of America.

National Institutes of Health. We fund that in this bill. This is an agency that is researching, finding cures. Every Member I am sure has had parents in his office with a child with juvenile diabetes or with a parent with Alzheimer's, pleading with us to do more in medical research, to find cures; and this, again, illustrates the compassion of America. We have more than doubled the amount of money going to NIH in the last several years because we recognize that this is key to the health of America, to find cures, to find new ways to address the concerns of the people that all of us have seen in our office who are pleading with us to do something.

This bill has 500 programs in it, 500 programs that help Americans, and in many different ways.

Math and science, I have here a report just put out by a group commissioned by two Senators and two House Members, and it is entitled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." Think about that title: "Rising Above the

Gathering Storm." What is the gathering storm? The gathering storm is the inability to compete as a Nation, and the thrust of this report is to rise above that. Their number one recommendation is an increase in America's talent pool by vastly improving K-12 science and mathematics education.

We make that kind of a commitment in this bill. We do give extra funding for math and science and recognize that in the world of tomorrow for our young people to compete they need to have that background.

Meals on Wheels, another example of compassion. If you have talked with people that work in this program, mostly volunteers who take out these meals, that allows seniors to stay in their homes for a longer period of time, that allows them to see somebody if they are living alone maybe once a day or more often in the week, a wonderful program in terms of caring about people.

Afterschool programs, we fund those, and those of you who live particularly in the big cities realize how important that is. I talked this morning with a young man that is running an afterschool program in the gentleman from Pennsylvania's (Mr. SHERWOOD) district, a member of our committee, where he said how much they can help people with their afterschool programs.

There are moneys in here to roll out the prescription drug program because we have a responsibility in this committee to provide for the administration of these programs.

Global AIDS. Global AIDS is in this bill, \$100 million to address, along with the money in the foreign operations bill that again is very, very important; and I think we can be proud to be Americans.

That is what I said at the outset. I say it again, that when you look at what we have funded in this bill, we have funding in this bill for 280 million Americans and over many billions of dollars to address the needs of people, that addresses things that are very important in their lives. I urge all the Members, before you rush to judgment on this bill, realize that we are in this bill doing a lot of good things for American citizens. Maybe it is not as much as you like, not many bills ever are as much as people would like that have a high degree of interest, but there is a lot of good in here.

There is a lot in here for special education. We increase it. We increase NIH. More medical research to address those problems of juvenile diabetes is an example that you hear about in your office; more money for education, Title I.

More money for community health centers. Any of us who have those in, and I hope most Members do, realize how important the community health centers are to people who have no access, who do not have a family doctor. It helps the hospitals because it means that people can go to the community

health center instead of to the emergency room. We add money for that.

Community services block grants. Think of that title. Community services, and we give block grants to communities to administer to local problems. This is an example of a program that helps local people.

LIHEAP, again, Americans recognizing that people in areas of severe weather conditions need an additional helping hand, and that is especially true in this time that we are living in where people need to address the problems of excessive fuel costs.

So I cannot say enough. I hope all of my colleagues and the Members that are listening to this, reading the bill, will take note of the fact that whereas this may not be everything you like, this bill does a lot of good. I do not think you want to go home and tell people you are against more money for special education, for those that are least fortunate, that you are against more money for education, for medical research, for LIHEAP, for global AIDS, for people around the world that are less fortunate than we are.

So, again, I say think on what the importance is of what you are doing. Take pride in America. Take pride in the compassion of the people of this Nation as embodied in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the complete table of all the funding levels included in the conference report has been printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as of November 16; and for those of my colleagues who are wondering what each of the programs might be of the 500, you can go to the RECORD of November 16 and pick out a program that you might have a special interest in.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present before the House today the conference report on the fiscal year 2006 appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies.

Many of my colleagues are aware of the difficult choices we had to make in this bill. In February, Congress received the President's FY 2006 budget request. In light of our budget deficit, the President's request assumed a one percent cut in domestic spending, exempting both defense and homeland security from this reduction. Our budget resolution approved this recommendation. This cut, taken together with required increases for implementing the prescription drug benefit program, brings our bill to \$1.4 billion below last year's level.

Let me emphasize, we made a commitment to reduce deficits. Recognizing the will of this House, we have put together a bill that best reflects the priorities of this body and does a good job of meeting the needs of the American people.

The conference report has no budget gimmicks, no emergency spending designations, and no earmarks.

So many of the programs in this bill play an important part in the lives of American people. Peter Drucker, who passed away on Friday, was considered by many to be the most influential management thinker of the past century. He said, "Successful enterprises create the conditions to allow their employees to do their best work." A successful employee needs

adequate knowledge to thrive. I believe an investment in education is an investment in people. We support teachers and students by increasing funding for Title I by \$100 million. Title I provides additional resources to low-income schools to help principals, teachers and students close education achievement gaps.

Many of my colleagues speak with me about the financial demands of special education on their local school districts. In this bill, funding for special education is increased by \$100 million.

I believe the quality of classroom teachers and principals is one of the most important factors that affect student achievement.

This bill provides \$100 million to reward effective teachers and to offer incentives for highly qualified teachers to teach in high-need schools.

We provide \$184 million for math and science initiative. TRIO, GEAR UP, Vocational Education State Grants, and Adult Education, programs have strong support from members of this body. These programs were proposed for termination in the President's budget; however, we have allocated over \$3 billion for the continuation of these important efforts.

The sharp rise in college costs continues to be a barrier to many students. This bill provides the full amount needed to hold the maximum Pell Grant at the current level of \$4,050, over \$800 million over FY 2005.

Healthcare is a critical part of a nation's economic development. Mr. Speaker, as you know, many of the Community Health Centers have served as America's health care safety net for the Nation's underserved populations. Funding for the Community Health Centers is at \$1.8 billion, an increase of \$66 million over last year.

As a result of our commitment to the National Institutes of Health, our citizens are living longer and better lives. We have provided over \$28 billion to NIH to support medical research, \$150 million over FY 2005.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ensures that low-income households are not without heating or cooling, and provides protection to our most vulnerable populations, the elderly, households with small children, and persons with disabilities. Given the anticipated high costs of energy due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we have provided over \$2.2 billion for FY 2006.

In the Department of Labor, we have provided nearly \$3 billion for workforce training programs. These programs will ensure that our dislocated workers and most disadvantaged youth will return to gainful employment.

Mr. Speaker, in order to implement more than 400 provisions of the Medicare Modernization Act and ensure senior citizens receive the prescription drug benefits we provided in MMA, we have allocated nearly \$1 billion over the FY 2005 level to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and Social Security Administration. While benefits that both of these agencies provide come through mandatory spending via the Ways and Means Committee, this bill provides the funding for the agencies' administrative costs.

Much more could be said about this bill, but given the allocation, we have produced a fair, balanced and responsible bill that best meets the needs of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 11 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio is my friend. I have a great deal of respect for him, and I know he tries to do the best job with the tools he is given. The problem is that he has been given a totally inadequate set of tools.

"This is the budget that you get when you elect a Republican White House, a Republican House of Representatives, and a Republican Senate." I did not say that. The former majority leader of the Republican caucus said that, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY).

This is the day when the price of Republican tax cuts for the wealthy becomes quite clear, on this bill and on the bill that will follow, the reconciliation bill.

This is the day when this Congress chooses to walk away from its investments: obligations in education, health care, job training and the like. This is the bill which shortchanges the Social Gospel. This is the day that we pass legislation that chooses to make the lives of the most privileged among us quite a bit more pleasant because of their tax cuts while at the same time we are making the lives of the poor just a little bit more desperate.

This is a growing country. It has growing problems. It has growing opportunities. If this bill does not grow with it, then we lose ground; and we are certainly losing ground under this bill today.

This is the bill for education, health, social services, worker protection programs. This is the guts of the Federal effort to try to see to it that, regardless of one's station in life, people have the greatest possible opportunity to get ahead.

Yet, this bill is \$1.5 billion on a program-for-program basis, once you cut out the funny accounting, this is a bill which is \$1.5 billion below last year.

The Department of Labor, funding in that Department: \$37 million below the House bill, \$193 million below the Senate bill.

There are 7.5 million Americans out of work. Yet the bill cuts \$437 million out of training and employment services. That is the lowest level of adult training grants in a decade.

This bill also cuts the Community College Initiative, the President's initiative for community colleges, an effort to train workers for high-skill, high-paying jobs. It cuts that effort by \$125 million and rescinds \$125 million from funds provided last year, denying the help that the President was talking about giving to 100,000 Americans.

State unemployment insurance and employment service offices are cut by \$245 million, eliminating help for 1.9 million people.

The International Labor Affairs Bureau will certainly have a hard time protecting American workers from being undercut by child and slave labor abroad after this program has been cut by 20 percent.

In the health and human services area, this bill cuts health care to the

poor and underserved rural areas of the country. It eliminates the community access program that helps coordinate services and programs to provide health care to people who do not have it.

This bill cuts by 69 percent health professions training. This bill cuts by 73 percent funding for rural health outreach.

We have only about 10 percent of physicians in America who practice in rural areas, and yet one-fourth of the U.S. population lives in those areas. We have huge shortages of health care providers in urban, underserved areas as well, but training grants for health care professionals are cut by \$206 million.

□ 1245

We have the Maternal/Child Health Care Block Grant. That program is cut by 20 percent below fiscal 2002 levels, and we have a 24 percent cut in block grants for State health departments. And then, all of us are going to run home and brag about how much we have done to prepare the country for public health disasters.

My friend talked about the National Institutes of Health. We have the smallest increase for NIH in 36 years, and under that budget, because funding for NIH does not keep pace with inflation, we will actually see 500 fewer research grants coming out of NIH than we would have seen 2 years ago. We have effectively ended the President's initiative to expand the number and the capacity of community health centers around the country, \$238 million less than the President requested. For the low-income heating assistance program, our oil companies, one company, \$10 billion profit the last quarter. We expect to see natural gas prices rise 46 percent, home heating oil prices rise 28 percent, and yet we freeze the program that is supposed to provide help to people to pay their bills so they do not have to choose between heating and eating, and we only serve 15 percent of the persons who are eligible to be served under that program.

Education: This is the first cut in education funding in a decade. Education programs under the No Child Left Behind rubric are cut by \$784 million below last year. That is \$13 billion below the authorization, and on a cumulative basis, it is some \$40 billion short of what we promised we would have provided these past years since we passed No Child Left Behind.

Title I is up \$100 million. That is in comparison to a \$600 million increase that came from that well-known "liberal" George W. Bush. Special education, it is up \$100 million in comparison to the \$508 million request from the President of the United States.

Because we mandated that local school districts provide service to special education children, we are supposed to be providing 40 percent of the cost. This bill actually reduces the Federal share of that cost from 18.6 to

18 percent. That is going in the wrong direction.

The Comprehensive School Reform Program, totally wiped out. The Goodling Even Start Program, named after Bill Goodling, the former Republican chairman of the Education Committee, cut by 56 percent. Education technology cut by 45 percent, and that comes on top of a 28 percent cut that was made last year. We cut Safe and Drug-Free Schools by 20 percent in this bill. We freeze afterschool programs for the 4th year in a row. That means that there are 14 million kids in this country who want those services who will not get them. And I could go on and on.

On higher education, the college board tells us that the 4-year cost of attending a public university has increased by \$3,100 over the past 5 years. The President's answer was to raise the Pell Grant maximum by 100 bucks. A \$100 solution to a \$3,100 problem. The Congress said "No, that is too much." The House cut it to \$50. This conference report totally eliminates it, totally eliminates it. No increase in the maximum grant. And then in the reconciliation bill that follows today, they are going to add \$8 billion more in costs to students who borrow money to go to college. And then this bill freezes all other student aid programs, SEOG, Work-Study, Perkins, TRIO, GEAR UP. It freezes title VI foreign language program.

The backlog at Social Security, those caseload backlogs are going to increase. This bill provides \$189 million less than the President asked, \$80 million less than was in the House bill, \$130 million less than the Senate bill. And we do all of this in order to free up necessary room so the Republican Party can deliver on its \$100,000-plus tax cuts for people who make 1 million bucks.

This is going in the wrong direction. These priorities are wrong. This bill is a disgrace. The gentleman would have provided a much better bill if he had been given a decent allocation, but he was not. So he did not have the tools to do it. There is no reason to vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), a very productive and important member of our subcommittee.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman REGULA for yielding me this time. And I thank him for not only his work product today, but for his many, many years of service to this country and to this Congress. He has been a remarkable leader throughout his career, and there is no one in this House who can question his sincerity or his knowledge of the issues that he is responsible for.

I rise today in strong support of this bill. We will hear much from the other side of the aisle about what is missing from this bill, why we are not spending

enough in this bill. We are spending \$142 billion on the needs of our American citizens. That is more money than the entire budgets, the entire budgets, of Russia, China, Germany, and we could throw in 15 or 20 other countries. This is more money than they spend on their entire budget including their military. It is a pretty remarkable commitment to our Nation and to our fellow citizens. This is money that does not come easy. This does not come from God. This comes out of people's pockets.

We are going to hear an awful lot about these tax cuts. Well, we have tried to reduce the tax burden on Americans who are paying for these benefits. They pay for these benefits out of the goodness of their heart. First of all, they have to pay taxes to help support our government. We take that money, we turn it around, and most of the money we spend goes toward helping our fellow Americans, and that is what this bill is all about.

Congressman Bill Natcher, God rest his soul, used to refer to this as "the people's bill." This is the bill that helps educate our kids, that helps keep us healthy, that pays for Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid and all of our Federal health programs. And I do not know how anyone, except for nibbling around the edges, could criticize an effort where we are spending these tremendous amounts of money to help those among us who are less fortunate.

But there is also the argument that we will hear on the other side of the aisle about our deficits, that our deficits are too high, our deficits are growing, our deficits, our deficits, our deficits; but every time we bring a bill to the floor, there is not enough money in it. They cannot have both ways. They cannot rail against deficits and then tell us that we need to spend more money on every program in the Federal budget.

There is no question these are difficult choices, but I think if I were going to entrust my decisions on these things to anyone, it would be to Congressman REGULA, who has been doing this for so many years.

There are a lot of problems in our country, lots of them, and we have them in our home towns, our big cities, our rural areas, and this is an effort to deal with those problems.

For example, our party, we have, since we have become the majority, provided billions and billions more in dollars for education, remembering that the education dollar, public education, was 95 percent State and local funds. Now it is about 92 because we have so dramatically increased our contribution to that. And yet 50 percent of the kids who start high school in the United States today do not finish high school. That is a tragedy and it is atrocious, and it shows it is not just about the money. It is about parents, it is about school boards, it is about teachers, it is about kids, getting it right, taking a serious look at

our public educational system in this country and realizing, as so many have said, that we are headed in the wrong direction. We are increasing resources to try to help with that, and we are trying to improve our math and science education because we are not competing with the rest of the world. But this bill makes a valiant effort to fund those needs.

We are also providing billions and billions of dollars for health care. In this bill we are not even talking about the brand new Medicare prescription drug benefit, the \$400 billion prescription drug benefit that Congress just enacted that is just taking place today. Again, what a remarkable response by the Government of the United States to the needs of our senior citizens, because everybody knows that health care in this country has changed. People do not just go to the hospital anymore to get an operation. They go to the doctor, they get prescription drugs. The prescription drugs help them to live long, healthy, quality lives. And because of these programs like Medicare, Medicare prescription drugs, Social Security, we now have the healthiest and wealthiest group of senior citizens that the world has ever seen. This is a continuing commitment to that.

I urge my colleagues to forget about the nibbling around the edges and support a good solid bill that will help our fellow Americans.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman brags about the additional money that the Republican Congress has put into education. President Clinton and the Democrats had to drag them kicking and screaming into providing that money. We provided \$19 billion more in education since they took over the Congress than would have been provided if we had simply passed the Republican House bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I know the subcommittee chairman, the ranking member, and the majority and minority staff, did the best they could under the circumstances. But I think cutting title VII health professions by 69 percent, eliminating some title VII programs entirely, is draconian and unconscionable.

Since I started serving on this subcommittee almost 7 years ago, I have fought to end disparities, disparities in employment, disparities in education, disparities in health. And health disparities are real. If one is black in this country, their life expectancy is 66 years. If one is white in this country, it is 74 years. Infant mortality is twice as high for African American babies as it is for white babies.

Fortunately, institutions like the Institute of Medicine of the National

Academy of Sciences have laid out a framework on how to end these disparities. One of the recommendations of the IOM was to increase the number of minority health professions. This mark does exactly the opposite, cutting health professions by almost \$200 million.

Mr. Speaker, in the Centers of Excellence Program, this cut will eliminate 30 programs at Minority Serving Institutions, negatively impacting approximately 1,000 under-represented minority students and almost 180 under-represented faculty at these schools.

In the Faculty Loan Repayment Program, approximately 40 under-represented staff persons will lose their jobs. In the Health Careers Opportunity Program, 7,000 minority disadvantaged students will be negatively impacted and 3,000 K through 12 students will be negatively impacted.

Mr. Speaker, this assault on minority serving programs is unjustified and overtly irresponsible. I think that a society says a lot about the way it treats its most vulnerable of its citizens. I believe that we live in a United States and, like a chain, we are only as strong as our weakest link. By leaving some of our citizens behind, we prove that we are not strong and compassionate but weak and uncaring.

I keep hearing Members of this body say, Jessie, this is a tight budget year. Mr. Speaker, this is a tight year. It was not created by immaculate conception. Some of us voted to make it a tight budget year. Some of us voted to approve the budget resolution. Saying it is going to be a tough budget year is like a farmer saying he is going to have a bad harvest because he did not plant any seeds. Mr. Speaker, when Congress approved this budget resolution, we did not plant any seeds and nothing will grow this year, not because of a natural disaster like a drought, but because of our own making in this Congress. Shame on us. The chairman and the subcommittee did the best they could, but this is a terrible mark, and I urge a "no" on this bill.

□ 1300

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), a distinguished member of our subcommittee.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education bill and say I am very proud to serve on this committee. It is an important committee that serves the needs of so many Americans in their daily lives. I want to say congratulations to and state my great admiration for Chairman REGULA in these difficult times when he as the leader of this committee has had to make some very tough choices.

The previous speaker said shame on us. I am not ashamed of this bill at all. I am very proud of the work we are doing. I am proud, for instance, of the \$253 million increase to the National Institutes of Health funding medical

research that can make such a difference to the health of Americans and to the health of this Nation, making us a healthy Nation. I am proud that we have doubled the funding for the National Institutes of Health while I have been on this committee.

I am proud of the funding for the community health centers which have been raised to \$1.8 billion, serving the uninsured and the underinsured. I have a community health center in my district. It is a wonderful community partnership serving literally thousands of people that were not being served otherwise. I am very proud of that funding, and I am very proud of community health centers and what they do.

I am also proud about the funding for LIHEAP. It is \$115 million over the last year, serving the poorest citizens in our country, helping with heating their homes, and those are citizens that are going to have to get up every day and decide what bills they are going to pay. I am proud of the work we have given them towards purchasing their prescription drugs. This funding for LIHEAP really makes a difference in their lives every single day.

I was a teacher before I left teaching and went into business, and then came to Congress. I have watched our math and science scores, how we worked so hard to bring those scores up so we can be competitive in the world. Now we have \$184 million for a math and science partnership to strengthen our math and science education in K-12. This is something we have to do, and we have talked about it year after year after year to put that money where it is served best so we are not importing our scientists, we are growing and building our scientists. This is a bill I am very proud of. It is a difficult time, and the chairman has done a great job.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman claimed there is a \$115 million increase in here for low income heating assistance. There is not. The formula grant has been increased by \$115 million, but the contingency portion of the program has been reduced by \$115 million. The net result: no help in the teeth of huge energy increases.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) for all of his work on the legislation, and I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for all of his work. Like so many others who have already spoken, it is clear they were not dealt a very fair hand, or the hand that they needed, to take care of needs of this country.

I am most disappointed in the funding of No Child Left Behind. At a time when school districts are entering into the most expensive part of No Child Left Behind, when they are being required to restructure entire school districts, entire schools, when they are

trying to meet the demand and the requirement of a law that we have a highly qualified teacher in every classroom, which requires substantial re-training of teachers, the attracting of new teachers, the paying of incentives for teachers to go to the most difficult schools, at that very time the Federal Government walks away from the commitment under No Child Left Behind. The Federal Government starts to decrease its participation when the States and the school districts and our schools need it more than ever.

It really shows such little confidence in the future of our young children. It shows such little confidence in the ability of our school districts to re-structure themselves to meet the demands being placed upon them. We see cuts here in technology grants that are absolutely essential for the future education of our children. We see teacher quality grants cut. Those are absolutely essential to improve the quality of our teachers in our classroom so they can engage in that kind of professionalism.

What is most startling is that these cuts in education come at a time when, I am not saying put more money in education, Mr. OBEY is not telling you that, but the American business community is telling you this is the most crucial thing you can do. The American Electronics Association, made up of some of the most successful companies in the history of this country, their number one priority was to fully fund No Child Left Behind. The Semiconductor Association: fully fund No Child Left Behind, put money into graduate school education, put money into highly qualified teachers. And this budget goes in exactly the other direction.

We do not have the confidence that is necessary and demanded of this country in the future and the confidence in these young people and the necessary investments to be made in them. It is so discouraging to see the lack of confidence in our young people that this budget demonstrates.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to say back during the spring we went through our annual budget process. The Budget Committee has testimony from all sectors of society and the government who are affected by the budget. It is a good debate.

In the final analysis, that budget came to the floor and after weeks and months of discussion and arm twisting, it passed by a vote of 214-212. I may be wrong on this, I do not think any of the Democrats voted for it. Most of the Democrats, I would say, are very consistent saying we should be spending more money and, therefore, they voted against it. But there are other Democrats who are saying look at the deficit, look at this, look at that. Boy, these Republicans are spending too

much. There is clearly a mixed signal here, and clearly some dissension in the Democratic ranks.

But when you pass a budget in the spring and it is passed by this body and the other body, then the subcommittees of Appropriations have to follow that budget. That is what this does. Sometimes making these decisions is very, very tough.

This bill actually eliminates 29 lower-priority programs. One of the programs I am a supporter of, the National Youth Sports Program, I like that program. They operated in Savannah. But when you look at the context of some of the other programs and you realize this is run by the NCAA, the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and they are the same people who put on the Rose Bowl, the Rose Bowl alone generates \$30 million in revenue. Perhaps they can replace the \$18 million that Congress is putting into it right now. There are ways to keep these programs alive even though the Federal Government is not picking up the tab for them.

It is my hope on these 29 programs that are terminated, that the local, the State level will step in, the private sector will step in; and a lot of what they are doing are duplicated in other programs. I have to say that these are very important.

I have to say also, Mr. Speaker, that I had a lot of local programs that were eliminated. These are programs which I have worked very hard on over the years to try to get into this budget. Those were the earmarks: Memorial Hospital in Savannah, Georgia; St. Joseph's Hospital in Savannah, Georgia; a project for the city of Moultrie; the Warner Robbins Aviation Museum; the Civil Rights Museum in Savannah, Georgia; and Brunswick Hospital. These were a lot of good programs that I personally hoped to get in, things that were within the budget that were doable. And yet in the end because of the legislative process, all earmarks had to be eliminated.

I was not happy about that, but I understand. In the bigger picture of things, you have to do what the body can pass, what there are votes for.

In this case, where did the money go? It went to community health clinics. It goes to Medicare modernization and medical research.

Incidentally, we talk about the NIH. The funding for the NIH has doubled under Republican leadership under a commitment made by the former Speaker, Mr. Gingrich. I have to say, I am a little disappointed in what we have gotten for our money. I have not seen a plethora of medical solutions and new devices and vaccines and all kinds of other research that I had hoped doubling the NIH budget would give us. Nonetheless, NIH still gets an increase under this bill.

The bill also restores community service block grants. Lots of things like the Job Corps program are funded in this bill. Despite its tightness in

some areas, Mr. REGULA has worked with the committee to put on what I think is a solidly balanced bill and face the economic realities of today with today's budget.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, reluctantly I stand here and oppose this legislation, primarily because we did earmark some money last year for programs, and now we are just cutting them off period, no prewarning, no salaries, no billing rent, no heat, nothing, just kicking them out. I do not think that is the right thing to do.

If you had grandfathered those programs in, I believe it would be a lot better. I would like to ask the gentleman from Ohio, do you save any money or does the money just go back into the other programs that your committee decided ought to get funding?

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. REGULA. In terms of earmarks, a proposal was made that we take an additional \$2 billion as emergency spending, and half of that would have been for earmarks. But we did not do that.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Does the actual number save any money? Does it save any money?

Mr. REGULA. The fact that there are no earmarks?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Yes.

Mr. REGULA. Absolutely, a billion dollars.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Just remember, you should have grandfathered those existing programs in place. You just killed them.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I reluctantly rise in opposition to the fiscal year 2006 Labor-HHS Conference Report. However, I wanted to express my sincere appreciation to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), and their staffs for their hard work on this legislation.

The bill should address many of our most important priorities, from education funding, worker training, to biomedical research and public health activities. Unfortunately, it falls short.

For the first time in 10 years, the bill actually cuts funding for the Department of Education. The bill provides the smallest increase for the National Institutes of Health in 36 years. Despite the fact that college costs have increased by 34 percent since 2001, the bill freezes the maximum Pell grant for the fourth year in a row.

At a time when States are being asked to bear an increasingly larger burden for preparing for and responding to public health emergencies, this bill cuts funds for State and local health departments by \$127 million.

And the bill includes a rescission of \$125 million from New York State Worker's Compensation Programs intended for sick and injured workers from September 11. The President made a \$20 billion commitment to the people of New York following September 11. The rescission breaks that promise.

While these and other programs are on the chopping block today, the bill provides a \$10 million increase for abstinence-until-marriage programs, despite mounting evidence of the scientific and medical inaccuracy of their curricula and ineffective results.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to express my continued concern with the Weldon refusal clause included in this bill. For over 30 years, there have been Federal laws that allow doctors, nurses, and hospitals to refuse to provide abortion services because of their religious beliefs. However, this provision extends that protection to HMOs, insurance companies, and makes no exception for medical emergencies.

States that attempt to protect access to health services can be denied all of their Federal health, education, and labor funding. My colleagues, we had an alternative to this misguided and dangerous language. The Senate bill contained a provision that would protect doctors' consciences while ensuring that women still have access to the services and referrals they need.

Unfortunately, the House majority rejected the Senate's reasonable compromise in favor of maintaining a policy designed to limit women's access to reproductive health services.

Mr. Speaker, it is because of these flaws that I simply cannot support this final conference report.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

□ 1315

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding, and I want to commend the gentleman for his outstanding work on this piece of legislation. The chairman is, I believe, well noted on both sides of the aisle for being a very compassionate and caring person, but as well a responsible adult.

When I travel around my congressional district, yes, it is true there are certain groups that would like to see areas of this bill increased. The things I hear overwhelmingly and most loudly is that these are difficult times. We have had tremendous outlays and expenditures with Hurricane Katrina, the war in Iraq and that we really need to hold the line on spending. And what this bill does, I believe, is unprecedented in my 11 years of being here in the House of Representatives. It actually reduces spending from last year. So this is not Washingtonspeak gimmicks where you take a 7 percent increase and reduce it to a 6.9 percent increase and scream and yell about that being a cut. This is a real reduction in

spending, and I think it is quite impressive. It eliminates 21 existing programs and cancels eight new programs.

What Chairman REGULA has done is adopted a philosophy which I think everybody in the Congress should adopt, look at programs very seriously and are they getting the job done. And if they are not, they should be eliminated. And contrary to Reagan's statement that the only thing that has eternal life in Washington, D.C. is a Federal program, Chairman REGULA has been able to reduce and eliminate 21 existing programs because they were not effective.

Within that context, the bill includes, I think, a number of important increases along the lines of what I believe the American people want to see. They are small in the budget realities we are dealing with now, nonetheless, they are real. The Pell Grant amount was increased so that we could keep the size of the grant the same. Additionally, there are some small increases for special education and title 1. I want to particularly commend the chairman for holding the line on the Weldon language. We have had in this bill for, as I understand it, decades, conscience protections for health care providers that do not want to perform abortions.

But in recent years, very aggressive abortion rights advocates have been putting pressure, using regulatory agencies and State governments and courts on hospitals and other institutions to begin performing abortions when the officials and the workers in those institutions did not want to do that. And what we have done is held the existing language from last year, which, I think, is the right policy for the Congress. It is the right policy for the American people. So I commend all my colleagues to vote for this bill. It is a good piece of legislation. It is the right thing for this country at this time and our history with the challenges that we face today.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the work of this subcommittee has always reflected our priorities as a Nation, helping provide services that help us meet our most basic needs, health, our children's education, our scientific research, challenges only the Federal Government has the ability, the capacity and the resources to help us meet. The problem with the funding in this conference report is that it fails to meet that threshold.

Worker training, funded at levels below last year. The National Institutes of Health, where this subcommittee made historic progress, doubling our investment in medical research. Name the disease, childhood leukemia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, HIV, the work of the NIH has prolonged or improved the life of every single American.

The funding level for the National Institutes of Health does not even meet inflation. Health professions are cut in half. Head Start is funding below last year's level. And with the cost of a college education skyrocketing, this conference report flat funds Pell Grants, meaning the maximum award is exactly the same as it was last year.

Funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, at last year's level, will prove disastrous for low income families.

This bill fails to invest in any of the priorities important to the American people. And the American people are tired of the Congress spending trillions in tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans at the same time they are told we simply do not have the resources to invest in things that impact their daily lives. We can make those investments, but only, only if we make them a priority.

That is what the American people want and expect from their government. You ask any middle class family what is more important to them, tax cuts for wealthy Americans, or lowering the cost of health care, home heating costs or college. They will tell you they want something that makes a difference in their lives and their family's lives. Vote against this conference report.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to express profound gratitude for the leadership that Chairman RALPH REGULA has provided in bringing this extraordinary measure to the floor. I also commend the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the gentleman from California, for his leadership.

The challenge of being in the spending branch of government is to fund the Nation's priorities and to live within our means. And this legislation for fiscal year 2006, with Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, does just that.

The story goes that Chairman RALPH REGULA was at the White House, saw Ronald Reagan and they talked about the fence at the Reagan ranch. And a day later, RALPH REGULA received a handwritten set of instructions about how to build a fence that is on the wall of his office today.

What is clear today to House conservatives is that RALPH REGULA learned more than just how to build a fence from Ronald Reagan. He learned how to fund the Nation's priorities with the fiscal discipline that characterizes this governing party. And for that, I am grateful.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I too want to commend those who worked to get the earmarks out of the bill. But I just wanted to point out that not all the earmarks are out of the bill. In the bill,

we have \$1.25 million for the Center For Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the University of Hawaii, \$1.2 million for the Hawaiian Department of Education for school construction, \$2 million to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians for cultural and education funding, \$5 million for America's Promise.

Now these may well be good programs, but they should not be funded in this bill that says that all the earmarks are gone.

We also violated a House rule where we were naming two Federal facilities after sitting Members of Congress. The Center for Disease Control headquarters is being renamed the Arlen Specter Headquarters and Emergency Operations Center. We are renaming the communication center at the CFDC the Thomas R. Harkin Global Communications Center. We should not be doing this. If we are getting rid of the earmarks, we ought to get rid of all of them.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) left the floor. The majority party neither funds the appropriate priorities in this bill nor meets its responsibilities for fiscal sound management of the Federal Government. It has taken this Nation \$3 trillion into additional debt in the last 56, 58 months. During the last 4 years of the Clinton administration, we did not have to increase the debt once, not once.

Mr. Speaker, this appropriations conference report betrays our Nation's values and its future. It is neither compassionate, conservative nor wise, and I will vote against it.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, including my Republican friends on the Labor Health Committee, claim that there is little they can do to improve the funding levels in this key domestic program. They say that they have no options, no alternative, that they are only complying with the funding levels dictated by the Republican budget resolution, a resolution which results in an additional almost trillion dollars in additional debt.

But let me remind them, you voted for that budget resolution and you cannot have it both ways. You cannot vote for draconian cuts in April and disclaim responsibility when those cuts are enacted in November.

At a time when we should be striving to make American schools and American students the best and the most competitive in the world, this bill insures that our Nation falls further and further behind. Unconscionably, this conference report cuts the Federal investment in education below current levels by \$59 million, for the first time in a decade. And it cuts funding for No

Child Left Behind by \$784 million, 3.2 percent cut, below the current level. This means that we have now reached a \$40 billion cumulative shortfall below the amount we promised our children when President Bush signed this bill into law. We do nothing in this bill to make higher education more accessible.

In my State, and I am sure in the chairman's State, and the chairman I do not criticize. He is given what he is given and he does the best he can. But in my state, costs have gone up for college kids and their families. Despite the President's 2000 campaign promise to increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$5,100, despite that promise, this bill freezes the maximum Pell Grant at over 25 percent below that, at \$4,050. For the fourth year in a row, that promise has been broken, while tuition and fees have increased 46 percent since 2001.

However, the inappropriate funding levels in this conference report should not surprise anyone. They are the inevitable consequence, and I am glad my friend from Indiana has returned, because the budget deficits confronting this Nation and the underfunding of priorities in this Nation are the inevitable consequence of the fiscal policies of the Republican majority and this administration, policies that starve the government resources.

So let everyone here and everyone watching at home understand, the funding levels contained in this conference report are the direct consequence of the Republican Party's failed economic policies that have spawned record budget deficits. Why? Because the next bill that is coming down the line will cut taxes by some \$70 billion. As the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) asked, is it saving money? It is not. And those failed policies are the proximate cause of this woefully underfunded and unacceptable conference report.

When we started on this budget disaster, Jim Nussle, Republican leader of the Budget Committee said this: "We do not touch Social Security. It does not touch Medicare. In fact, this budget accomplishes the largest reduction of the debt held by the public in our history. The bill does not change in one way, shape or form. And by the end of 10 years, this budget will have eliminated the debt held by the public."

In fact, it has taken, contrary to Mr. NUSSLE's representations, \$3 trillion, with a T, additional debt has been accumulated under these budgets. All they do is underfund priorities and adopt fiscally irresponsible policies. What a shame for America. Together America can do better.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY).

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the budget and appropriation bills that we pass here in the House are reflective of

our values as leaders in this country. H.R. 3010 reflects very poorly on this Congress. Four years ago, when we passed the No Child Left Behind Act, we told schools that we wanted them to be accountable for results and that we would provide them with the resources necessary to achieve these results.

Today, we know that the President and the Republican Congress have utterly failed to keep the bipartisan promise to students, to parents, to teachers, to provide schools with the resources called for by No Child Left Behind.

If we pass this bill, we will have shortchanged our Nation's children by more than \$40 billion over the past 4 years. This is only one of the many, many, many ways that this bill fails to invest in the American people and their children. And I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

□ 1330

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to say a few words about why I think this bill is a bill that says that the best days of this country are behind us, not before us. I call attention to some statistics, statistics that say the high school dropout over the course of their life will earn \$260,000 less than a graduate. This legislation, I think, does very little to support more students graduating from high school when it cuts after-school programs by 25 percent. If you spread that across 23 million high school dropouts in this country, that adds up to \$50 billion a year less in taxes.

So if we are really concerned about generating more taxes, we ought to be investing in our people, not taking away the kinds of resources that contribute to their ability to become greater taxpayers in this country.

Mr. Speaker, \$1 invested in preschool leaves \$7 saved in welfare, health care and criminal justice. Let's invest in our people.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

A previous majority Member said today that this bill represented fiscal responsibility. The fact is the Republican Party will provide, over the next decade, \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts to people who make over \$1 million a year. Yet in this bill, they will freeze student loans, they will allow people without health care to increase in number by 2 million, they will provide the first cut in education in a decade, they will cut safe and drug-free schools by 20 percent, and they will slash the President's initiative for math and science education.

In the teeth of the fact that they have given \$14 billion in subsidies to the big energy companies, they then say to low-income people who have to pay those higher prices, "Sorry. Despite the fact you're going to have a

huge increase in home heating costs, we're not going to give you a dime in additional money in this bill."

That is what they do. What we are going to see today in the reconciliation bill and in this bill is a double whammy on the most vulnerable people in this society. That is wrong morally and it is wrong economically. We hear a lot of talk on this floor about preserving life. Yet this program is going to cut maternal and child health care by 20 percent below the 2001 level. How is that going to encourage women to carry their babies to term?

This bill falls far short of our responsibilities in meeting the growing economic and social needs of this country. It ought to be defeated. We should not put tax cuts for millionaires ahead of providing basic education, basic health care and basic job protection to America's working people.

I urge a "no" vote on the conference report.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, I hope you will all weigh carefully what your opportunity here is in terms of voting for this bill. An opportunity to improve health research, an opportunity to improve education in Title I, an opportunity to provide more money for special education, an opportunity to ensure that LIHEAP is funded for those in need, an opportunity to develop community health centers where poor people can go to get help, where they can avoid having to run to the emergency room. So many positive things.

As I said at the outset, this is a bill that makes you proud to be an American. It illustrates the compassion of the American people. We have heard from the other side how we are not doing enough. Let me point out that in 1996 shortly after the Republican Party became a majority in 1994 and took responsibility, in 1996, the total of this bill was \$65 billion. Here 10 years later, this bill is \$142.5 billion, more than double the amount of money that has been committed to the compassionate programs of America, education, job training, medical research. We could go on and on.

We heard the gentleman from California talk about qualified teachers. I want to mention a special program in here. It is new. \$100 million to help get better qualified teachers in every classroom. Over and over again we hear how important the teacher is to the education system. Not only teachers but principals, good principals, good schools. We have recognized the importance of this by committing \$100 million. This bill has \$2 billion for homeland security. Again, this is important to the American people. Homeland security in the form of CDC, checking around the world in 43 locations to ensure that avian flu does not reach our shores.

I could go on and on about the compassion of this bill in terms of helping people. TRIO and GEAR-UP, programs to help people get into college, to get

that higher education that we all recognize is vital to their future and to the future of this Nation.

And let me say to those of you who think that, well, the key to this is to defeat the bill. If you defeat the bill, what is going to happen, in all likelihood, it will give these responsibilities that are embodied in this bill, the important programs for America will get rolled into some form of an omnibus bill and will be a continuing resolution. If that were to happen, priorities that are embodied in the bill would be lost, the things that are so important to all the Members of this body, but, moreover, far more important to the people of America, 280 million people.

I urge a strong, positive vote for the bill so we can continue to take pride in America and the compassion of the American people.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this conference report funding the Departments of Labor, Health, Education, and other agencies.

While not a perfect bill, it is a good bill. It represents another step in this year's appropriation cycle for fiscal responsibility.

Earlier this year, Congress passed a budget. It was a tough budget that reflected the difficult financial times we face.

It reined in spending on non-security activities for the first time in a generation. This is not an easy task. It is tough to cut the budget.

The conference report before us today \$142.5 billion. This is precisely the House-passed level, and nearly a half a billion dollars less than last year.

To arrive at this number, the conferees had to work hard to reduce the levels proposed by the other body that were \$2.6 billion higher than the accounts in the House-passed bill.

The conference report before us today does not include emergency spending designations or funding gimmicks as proposed by the other body.

The bill before us is lean. It prioritizes spending, contains some real cuts, and provides some resources for high priority programs.

The bill proposes to terminate 29 programs, including 20 of the 50 programs proposed for termination in the bill that originally passed in our chamber. Other programs proposed for termination by the House are cut substantially from last year's level.

While reducing the overall size of the bill from last year, the House conferees were able to increase funding in critical area, such as Pell Grants, Special Education, and low income heating assistance and bioterrorism preparedness.

For Community Health Centers, the final conference agreement provides \$1.8 billion, \$66 million more than last year.

The conference report includes \$100 million for a Teacher Incentive Fund that will be a pilot program helping reward teachers with the incentives to boost the quality of our education.

Generally, the increases in the conference report aren't big enough for our Democratic friends but they reflect our effort to do the best we could with the limited resources we had available.

I urge my colleagues to support the conference report.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report.

This bill inadequately funds virtually every area of need. It slashes \$1.5 billion from our country's critical health, human services, education and labor programs.

While the Bush administration has never fully funded the No Child Left Behind Act, this bill goes a step further by actually cutting total Federal education funding for the first time in a decade—cutting No Child Left Behind by \$14 billion below the authorized level, slashing special education, safe and drug free schools, education technology grants and freezing the maximum Pell grant award for the fourth year in a row despite rising tuition costs.

While people are trying to get re-trained because their jobs have been outsourced overseas, this bill cuts adult job training by \$31 million and youth job training by \$36 million.

At a time when we are trying to prepare our country for the aging of the baby boomers and threat of pandemic flu, this bill cuts funding for healthcare. It cuts the CDC's budget by \$249 million and provides the smallest percentage increase to NIH—less than 1 percent—since 1970. It doesn't provide any money for pandemic flu preparedness and eliminates 10 critical health care programs, including trauma care and the health community access program and cuts the health professions training grants by 69 percent making it even harder to recruit qualified health professionals.

The bill before us today would also freeze funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, LIHEAP, at \$2.18 billion, counting both basic formula grants and emergency grants—the FY 2005 level.

LIHEAP serves about 5 million households, the majority of which have at least one member who is elderly, disabled, or a child under age five.

LIHEAP appropriations have failed to keep up with rapid increases in energy costs over the past several years.

The conference report is freezing LIHEAP even though consumers are expected to pay 52 percent more for natural gas, 30 percent more for home heating oil, and 11 percent more for electricity this winter.

Back in August, the Republican majority heralded the passage of their massive energy bill, a bill that contained \$14 billion in tax breaks—most of them for wealthy oil, gas, coal and nuclear industries. At the time, they argued that their bill was "balanced" because, among other things, it provided \$5.1 billion in annual authorizations for the LIHEAP program.

But now, in this bill, we see that Republicans are not willing to fully fund LIHEAP. Under this bill, the Republicans would freeze LIHEAP funding at last year's level, despite the skyrocketing prices consumers will be paying for natural gas and home heating oil this winter.

Later today, the Republicans will be bringing up their Reconciliation bill, a bill that provides an additional \$1 billion for LIHEAP. But in the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Republicans voted against an amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois, Mr. RUSH, the gentleman from Texas, Mr. GREEN, and myself to increase LIHEAP funding up to the full \$5.1 billion level. The Republican leadership isn't even going to allow Democrats to offer an amendment to increase LIHEAP funding up to that level.

The Republicans won't fully fund LIHEAP because they have other priorities. Their budget makes that quite clear. Tax cuts for millionaires, tax cuts for the giant oil companies, weakening environmental regulations for their business cronies. Those are the priorities for the Republican-controlled Congress. Funding for education, health care and low-income home energy assistance so that seniors on fixed incomes, and poor families can heat their homes this winter, are not their priorities.

I urge a "no" vote on this bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the ill-conceived Conference Report for H.R. 3010, the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006.

This bill is flawed in so many ways and is a disservice to the American people. It is the latest move in the steady drumbeat of a Republican legislative agenda that makes working and middle class Americans pay for the tax cuts that benefit the ultra-wealthiest Americans. And it comes at a time when we are confronting the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the huge costs of waging the ongoing war in Iraq.

Overall, this conference report cuts education, health care, and human services by \$1.5 billion below what was spent on these efforts last year. Meanwhile, Republicans plan to spend \$11 billion this week on a capital gains and dividend income tax cut that will provide 53 percent of its benefit to people making more than \$1 million. Overall, Republicans will spend more on tax cuts this week alone, \$70 billion, than on both the Department of Education and the Department of Labor, \$68 billion, for an entire year.

These are just a few victims of the Republican bill.

No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million, the first time NCLB will have been cut since the law was enacted. Title I, which is the core of NCLB's efforts to improve reading and math skills, receives the smallest increase in 8 years—only \$100 million—which means 3.1 million low-income children will be left behind.

The maximum Pell grant is frozen for the fourth straight year, and no new funding is provided for all other student financial aid and support programs, even though college costs have increased by \$3,095, 34 percent, since 2001.

Consumers are expected to pay 46 percent more for natural gas and 28 percent more for home heating oil this winter, yet Republicans refused to increase funding for LIHEAP home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.

Nearly 46 million Americans are without health insurance yet Republicans provide virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers beyond those approved last year. Republicans also eliminate the Healthy Communities Access Program, \$83 million, and state planning grants to improve health care coverage, \$11 million.

The conference agreement does not include the \$8.1 billion in emergency funding provided in the Senate bill for pandemic flu preparedness, or any part of the \$7.1 billion requested by the administration for that purpose.

The conference agreement freezes or cuts most programs below their FY 2005 levels, including the following:

International assistance grants to eradicate child labor and protect worker rights through

the Bureau of International Labor Affairs are cut by 21.4 percent.

Community college training grants are cut by 50 percent in each of FY 2005 and FY 2006.

Unemployment insurance and employment service offices to help the unemployed are cut by 6.7 percent.

Health professions training grants are cut by 69 percent.

The Healthy Communities Access Program is eliminated.

The Centers for Disease Control is cut by 3.9 percent.

Comprehensive school reform state grants are eliminated.

Even Start family literacy services are cut by 55.6 percent.

Education technology grants are cut by 44.6 percent.

The education block grant for local initiatives is cut by 49.6 percent.

Safe and drug free schools grants are cut by 20 percent.

Under the conference agreement, only a few programs receive modest increases over FY 2005 and—in most cases—even these increases are below the amounts sought by the administration. While the conference agreement restores many of the 50 programs proposed for termination in the House bill, these restorations were made at the expense of funding for priority programs, such as community health services, Title 1 grants for low-income children, and special education grants, and Pell grants.

NIH receives a mere 0.7 percent increase—this does not even keep pace with inflation and does not meet our health research needs.

Title 1 grants for low-income children receive a 0.8 percent increase—the smallest increase in 8 years.

Special education grants receive a 0.9 percent increase—the smallest increase in a decade.

The maximum Pell grant is frozen at \$4,050 for the fourth consecutive year compared to the \$4,100 provided in the House bill.

Mr. Speaker, the simple truth is that the bill cuts essential health and education programs to pay for ill-conceived tax cuts. I do not believe this bill reflects the priorities and values of the American people. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to talk about the misguided conference report that the majority party has produced.

While the number of people living in poverty in this country continues to rise, this conference report fails to adequately fund programs that work to alleviate poverty. Despite the evidence, this conference report cuts Head Start funding and freezes funding for programs such as the Community Service Block Grant and LIHEAP.

As the number of Americans without health insurance sets new records every day, this conference report is cutting funding to programs that provide healthcare assistance to the uninsured. It eliminates the Healthy Communities Access Program and imposes drastic cuts to Maternal and Child Health funding and Rural Health Outreach. These cuts are in addition to \$11 billion in cuts to Medicaid that are included in the majority party's reconciliation bill that may be voted on later today.

As the number of Americans unable to find a job continues to rise this conference report

issues devastating cuts to initiatives that help put dislocated workers back in the labor force. Currently, 7.4 million Americans are unemployed, yet this conference report cuts Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services by \$141 million.

At a time when this country should be investing in education and human capital, this conference agreement cuts \$784 million from No Child Left Behind. It cuts funding for Even Start and Safe and Drug Free Schools, and freezes funding for adult education. These cuts are in addition to a reconciliation bill that cuts \$14.3 billion from student aid for college students.

Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to find solutions to problems not make them worse. We have a responsibility to ensure that all Americans have an opportunity to share in America's prosperity. It is irresponsible that we approve this conference report that cuts and eliminates essential programs when there is such an obvious need for the services they provide. I cannot in good conscience vote for this conference report and I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2006 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations is not just an underfunded bill but is harmful. A bill which should be a stepping stone towards providing good education, employment opportunities and access to affordable health care, instead takes away important safeguards upon which Oregonians and Americans depend. It is another example of how out of touch the Republican leadership is with the rest of the Nation.

This bill shortchanges education programs and imposes a burden on our college students. At a time when the global economy demands a highly trained, educated workforce, we are making it more difficult for our students to succeed by cutting financial aid programs, impacting over 90,000 Oregonians who are borrowing money to attend college. Oregonians have already been saddled with at least a \$1,000 increase in college tuition over the last year. And while there are over 55 million children in public schools nationwide and State budgets are already stretched thin, No Child Left Behind funding is cut by \$784 million.

Students are not the only ones feeling the squeeze. Several health care programs are threatened or eliminated in the legislation. While over 600,000 Oregonians are without health insurance, this bill essentially eliminates many of the safety net clinics and community health centers on which uninsured people depend. We may end up seeing more people in emergency rooms with severe conditions that could have been prevented with regular access to health care.

With over 7 million Americans out of work and over 100,000 Oregonians unemployed, the bill cuts the Department of Labor by \$430 million. Without assistance the gap between the wealthy and the less fortunate will continue to widen. Americans deserve better and it is irresponsible to say that these eliminated programs and funding cuts are the only way to solve our budgetary mess.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the conference report of H.R. 3010, the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill

for Fiscal Year 2006. This bill and the Republican majority are out of touch with the needs of the American public.

This legislation is a question of priorities. It is unconscionable that the Republican majority prepares to fund \$70 billion in tax cuts with cuts to key education, job training and health care programs. With States across the country struggling to find the dollars to fully implement No Child Left Behind, this bill would cut No Child Left Behind funding by \$784 million. With college tuition costs rising, this bill would freeze Pell grant funding at last year's level. With energy costs rising, this bill would also freeze Low-Income Home Energy Assistance funding at last year's level. With 7.4 million Americans out of work, this bill would cut \$245 million for unemployment insurance and employment services programs.

Additionally, this bill would provide the National Institute of Health, NIH, which works to research and combat diseases like cancer and chronic illnesses such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and ALS, with the smallest funding level increase in 36 years. This bill would also slash \$31 million in funding for Preventive Health Block Grants and provides virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers. This bill fails to recognize the continued HIV/AIDS crisis by freezing funding on virtually all components of the Ryan White AIDS Care program, except AIDS Drug Assistance. In total, this bill ignores the health needs of Americans.

This bill does not reflect the priorities of the American people. As Members of Congress, we cannot abandon our obligations to our children, to our parents and future generations by cutting vital programs to finance tax cuts bigger than we can afford. I urge my colleagues to reject the underlying bill and do better for the American people.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the vast education cuts brought before us today in this conference agreement and additionally in the budget reconciliation package that we may see today, are telling signs of the priorities of this Congress. These cuts demonstrate, far better than words ever could, that education is not a priority for this House.

This conference agreement provides a mere \$11 million increase for Head Start, a pivotal program for preschool-aged children in low-income families across the Nation. At current funding levels, Head Start serves approximately half of the children eligible for its services, a wholly inadequate proportion. This program, which has repeatedly been found to dramatically improve the academic performance of students deserves much more than an \$11 million increase.

The conference agreement cuts school improvement funding by 6 percent and flat funds teacher quality grants. These grants, which are used to recruit qualified teachers and support teacher development, are critically important to efforts to improve student achievement.

Rather than strengthening the Pell Grant Program and increasing access to higher education for low-income students, the conference agreement maintains the current maximum Pell Grant of \$4,050. At this level, the maximum Pell Grant only covers 39 percent of tuition at the average four-year public college, making a mockery of its status as the foundation of student aid for the poorest students.

What are our priorities? The votes members cast today on this conference agreement and the budget reconciliation later today, will show

their priorities. Do we place more value on tax cuts for the wealthy or the education of our students? I urge my colleagues to join me in prioritizing students' well-being and vote no on this conference report and on the budget reconciliation package.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose the Labor-HHS-Education conference report, which is the most recent evidence that working and middle class Americans are paying the price for the Republican economic agenda of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. Not only does this immoral budget fail to provide for what the American people need now, it also fails to address what it will take to be economically competitive in the future.

Overall, the conference report cuts education, health care, and human services by \$1.5 billion from what was spent on these efforts last year. Meanwhile, Republicans will spend \$11 billion this week on a capital gains and dividend income tax cut that will provide 53 percent of its benefit to people making more than \$1 million per year. Their plan spends more on tax cuts this week alone (\$70 billion) than on both the Department of Education and the Department of Labor (\$68 billion) for an entire year.

Funding for education is also cut by \$784 million, the first time the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act will have been cut since the law was enacted. Title I, which is the core of NCLB's efforts to improve reading and math skills, receives the smallest increase in eight years. Because it fails to keep pace with our growing population, 3.1 million low-income children will be left behind.

A program for which I have consistently advocated is Mathematics & Science Partnerships. Under this program, grants are first made to states, which, in turn, make grants to partnerships that must include a state agency; an engineering, math or science department of a college or university; and a high-need school district. Grantees use these funds to establish rigorous math and science programs; recruit math, science and engineering majors into teaching; and improve the teaching skills of math and science teachers. Without significant investment in math and science education, we will not be competitive with countries like China who are graduating nine times the number of engineering students that we are producing in America. Unfortunately, this conference report appropriates \$6 million less than the House passed earlier this year and \$85 million (32 percent) less than the President's request.

Also important for long term economic competitiveness is the Educational Technology State Grants Program. Like math and science partnerships this program received \$25 million less than the House bill, \$150 million (35 percent) less than the Senate bill, and \$221 million (45 percent) less than the current appropriation. This is exactly the wrong direction to be taking the country. We can not stay globally competitive if we are not teaching our children the skills and knowledge they will need to be the innovators of tomorrow.

Education for the disabled is also slashed. This bill cuts the Federal share of special education costs from 18.6 percent in FY 2005 to 18.0 percent by providing the smallest increase for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a decade. The bill provides \$4 billion less than Republicans promised for IDEA.

Similarly, the bill cuts \$17 million for vocational education. This cut will force local school boards to raise funds or cut other services to make up the shortfall. This will not prepare our children with the high tech vocational education they will need to obtain a job that pays well but for which a college degree is not necessary.

With 7.4 million Americans out of work it is unclear to me why Republicans are cutting the Community College Initiative. This initiative would train workers for high skill, high paying jobs, yet it is being reduced by \$125 million, denying this assistance to 100,000 Americans of a continued education to help them get a new job. This bill also cuts job search assistance through the Employment Service by \$89 million (11 percent) and unemployment insurance by \$245 million (7 percent), eliminating help for 1.9 million people.

This bill is no better for those attending college full-time. Despite the fact that higher education is increasingly expensive, the majority has decided not to increase the maximum Pell grant. Rather it is being frozen for the fourth straight year, and no new funding is provided for any other student financial aid and support programs, even though college costs have increased by \$3,095 (34 percent) since 2001.

College students are not the only ones left out in the cold by this bill. Families and seniors who cannot afford to pay the expected 46 percent increase for natural gas and 28 percent for home heating oil this winter will have to get by without energy assistance from the federal government. For some reason Republicans have refused to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps keep the heat on for people who cannot otherwise heat their homes in winter.

As this bill hurts families' ability to pay for college and heat their homes, it also deals a blow to their ability to receive healthcare. Nearly 46 million Americans are without health insurance, yet Republicans provide virtually no funding for new Community Health Centers beyond the amount approved last year. They also eliminate the Healthy Communities Access Program altogether along with the state planning grants to improve health care coverage. Where do the Republicans find the moral justification to cut these programs while planning to pass another \$70 billion tax cut for the top 1%?

The bill does little to prepare for long-term healthcare concerns or invest in medical research. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is cut \$249 million (3.9 percent). The National Institutes of Health (NIH) receives a (0.7 percent) increase—its smallest increase in 36 years, and not enough to keep the number of research grants from declining for the second year in a row. How are we supposed to remain the world leader in health research with funding numbers like this?

I believe American leadership is fueled by national investments in an educated and skilled workforce, groundbreaking federal research, and a steadfast commitment to being the most competitive and innovative Nation in the world. We must make the decision now to ensure that America remains the world leader in innovation and competitiveness. This bill takes us in the opposite direction.

America's global leadership in technological advancement and innovation is being seriously challenged by other countries. The warning

signs could not be clearer. The rest of the world is increasing its capacity, its investments, and its will to catch up with us. We cannot ignore this challenge. Americans again must innovate in order to create new thriving industries that will produce millions of good jobs here at home and a better future for our children. Today this bill moves us further away from achieving this goal.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today we have some very clear choices. It is not every day that we face such black and white options—often the issues we debate on this floor have many shades of gray.

But today, there is no confusion, there is no muddying of the issues, and there is no way to mask the harm this bill would do: cut education spending for the first time in a decade, slash funding for worker and youth training, and provide no increase for home heating assistance for low-income families.

Today, we have a choice. We can pass a bill that will be detrimental to our children's future; that will hurt students in need of financial assistance to go to college; that will not help families struggling to pay their heating bills; and that will severely hinder research and preventive health efforts. Or we can reject this bill and demand something better for American families.

We have heard that this bill is the result of priorities. Well, this is one point where I agree with my Republican colleagues. This bill is the result of priorities. The wrong priorities, Mr. Speaker.

When the Republican leadership of this Congress is content to spend more on tax cuts than on the entire Department of Education or Labor;

When we can spend \$70 billion in tax cuts but cannot provide children the access to technology or advanced science and math instruction they need to compete in today's world;

When we can give millionaires a break but cannot provide students even a meager increase in Pell Grants to help them pay for the rising cost of college;

When we shell out billions in tax breaks to oil companies but cannot help those in need prepare for what is expected to be one of the costliest winters yet; it is clear that Republicans have the wrong priorities in mind.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's children should not have their education shortchanged because the administration had to scrounge around for a few million here and there to pay for tax cuts that benefit a small minority in this country.

At a time when people are losing faith in their government and their leaders, when they are asking for honesty and looking for answers to their everyday needs, this bill provides no answers. This bill tells them to go it alone. Mr. Speaker, America deserves better than this.

Vote no on this conference report that shortchanges and unfairly punishes everyday Americans.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the Labor, Health & Human Services and Education Appropriations bill before us. This bill quite simply fails to address the priorities of the American people.

My concerns about specific cuts in this bill are many. It cuts funding for No Child Left Behind, an already vastly underfunded mandate; it fails to offer even the small increase in the

maximum Pell Grant that was established in the House bill; and it sets a funding level for the National Institutes of Health that would decrease the number of federal research grants for the second year in a row. The consequences of this bill are far-reaching. Major cutbacks in the areas of education and health care will have a tremendous economic impact on our Nation.

I would like to speak briefly about what my constituents have told me is important to them. Rhode Islanders, like all Americans, are concerned about health care. I have heard from many of them in recent weeks, in opposition to the devastating cuts to the Title VII health professions programs. While the Administration has made it clear that Community Health Centers are a priority to them, this bill nearly eliminates the very programs that health centers rely on to recruit nurses to work in areas that are facing acute professional shortages and train medical students to work with underserved populations. With 45 million uninsured Americans, we cannot afford to eliminate programs targeted at meeting the needs of the uninsured or remove the support systems that exist for those doctors and nurses who are serving in areas where there is a shortage of professional health services.

Rhode Islanders are also concerned about unemployment. With 7.4 million unemployed Americans, this conference agreement cuts critical services for the unemployed, including job training grants and unemployment insurance offices. Adult Training Grants, which provide training and related education and employment services to economically disadvantaged adults, are cut by \$31 million—providing the lowest level of funding for these training grants in a decade. Youth training grants, which offer states the opportunity to develop on-the-job training and provide exposure to a wide variety of promising career paths for disadvantaged youth are cut by \$36 million, offering 12,000 less at-risk youth the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and find meaningful employment.

When Congress passed H. Con. Res. 95, the Budget Conference Report, the Republican leadership set the stage for these devastating cuts. This legislation makes it clear that tax cuts for the wealthy will continue to be paid for by slashing programs that Rhode Islanders depend on.

I urge my colleagues to reject H.R. 3010.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3010, the Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations Act for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. H.R. 3010 severely cuts education, health care, and human services that are crucial to North Carolina and to the country.

As the only former state schools chief serving in Congress, I know firsthand the devastating effects that these education cuts will have. At a time when we are asking our schools to do more than ever, H.R. 3010 cuts No Child Left Behind funding by \$784 million below last year's level and makes it impossible for our schools to meet high standards of accountability. These cuts will destroy the morale of our teachers, parents and students.

America's working families are struggling to pay record costs for college costs for college tuition and expenses. Last November, President Bush made a campaign promise to increase funding for Pell Grants and invest in higher education. Unfortunately, this bill

freezes Pell Grants and other student financial aid programs for the fourth year in a row, even though college costs have increased by 34 percent since 2001. America needs a highly trained and educated workforce to compete in the global marketplace of the 21st Century, but H.R. 3010 slashes funding for education at all levels and strains school budgets.

The failure of H.R. 3010 to represent the values of the American people extends beyond the walls of the classroom. H.R. 3010 slashes funding for community health centers that assist the almost 46 million uninsured Americans, and underfunds the Centers for Disease Control as we face the possibility of a flu pandemic. And as winter approaches with expected record prices to heat their homes, H.R. 3010 fails to increase funding for LIHEAP home heating assistance, which helps keep the heat on for low-income seniors and children.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3010 fails to represent the priorities of the American people. I urge my colleagues to vote against this bad bill and restore funding for essential services for our families.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Conference Report on H.R. 3010. The fiscal year 2006 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations report before the House today shortchanges America's children, its families, its workers and its most vulnerable citizens.

The Labor-HHS-Education bill embodies our priorities and values as Americans. In it, Congress provides the yearly resources needed to keep our families healthy, our children educated, our workers employed, and our most vulnerable citizens a productive part of our society. This bill is arguably one of the most important pieces of legislation Congress addresses each year.

Chairman REGULA understands this responsibility. He understands that this is "the people's bill", and he has worked hard to distribute the limited resources he was given in a fair and conscientious way. So my "no" vote today should in no way be seen as a lack of respect or appreciation for the efforts of RALPH REGULA, the chairman of the Labor HHS Appropriations Subcommittee.

Chairman REGULA and the staff of the subcommittee have worked within this tight budget allocation to address the needs and priorities of our states and communities as best they could under the circumstances. For example, the conference report includes increases in two critical areas to help infants and their families. The first is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's folic acid national education program. This program has been instrumental in the prevention of birth defects by encouraging women of child-bearing age to take the recommended amount of folic acid daily, thereby decreasing the rate of neural tube defects. The second increase is for the Health Resources and Services Administration's newborn screening program for early identification of infants affected by certain genetic, metabolic, hormonal and or functional conditions for which there are effective treatment or intervention. In addition, for the first time, this bill also includes programmatic funding for the national media campaign to fight underage drinking, which is being conducted by the Ad Council. I thank the committee for helping our country make progress in these critical public health areas. The presence of these and a small number of other

positive programmatic funding levels, however, is simply not enough to warrant approving this conference report.

Mr. Speaker, the constraints placed on this bill by the budget priorities and decisions of the Republican leadership are not worthy of this House and the values of the American people. I voted against the House bill when it came to the floor in June precisely because it fell so short of meeting the needs of America's children, families and the most vulnerable among us. I had hoped that the bill would be improved in the conference. It is unfortunate, however, that in this conference agreement, the way they chose to improve overall programmatic funding from the original House Bill levels was to take resources away from other priorities and community needs.

This report and its funding decisions do not stand in isolation. They reflect the misguided priorities of a Republican leadership that has continually put the interests of the wealthy and the privileged before the needs and priorities of working and middle-class Americans. This Labor-HHS-Education conference report is a direct result of an economic agenda of tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, and it weakens America's future by under-funding key education, health and human services programs. If approved, this bill will impose cuts to essential programs important to Americans in at least three major areas.

First, this conference agreement significantly shortchanges our nation's workers. The bill cuts labor programs \$430 million below the FY 2005 levels. Training and employment services for the 7.4 million Americans who are unemployed are funded well below the FY05 levels. This includes a \$31 million cut to Adult Training Grants, a \$36 million cut to Youth Training Grants; and a \$141 million cut to Unemployment Insurance Offices. The U.S. Employment Service Office, which matches job seekers with job openings, is slashed by 10.5 percent, and the report freezes funding for dislocated and older workers. In addition, the bill slices International Labor Affairs, the program that helps eradicate abusive child labor practices and protect worker rights, by 21 percent.

Secondly, this report is simply a reaffirmation of the Administration's hollow commitment to education, slashing the No Child Left Behind funds by \$784 million below the FY 2005 level. It cuts the Education Technology Block Grant program that provides access to technology in schools by a shocking 45 percent from last year's level. It reduces the Even Start program supporting services for low literate and low-income families by 56 percent. And as a final point, it shortchanges our children with disabilities by funding IDEA at \$4 billion below the Republican promise to put special education on a fast track to full funding.

Finally, the report is particularly devastating to the health of Americans. Some of its most significant cuts are directed towards the critical programs that provide a health care safety net for the uninsured. The conference agreement provides \$34 million less than the House passed bill and \$89 million less than the Senate bill for grants to Health Centers for services to the uninsured. The Maternal and Child Health Block Grant is cut by 3 percent, reducing its true per capita purchasing power by almost 20 percent below the FY 2002 level. The conference agreement terminates the Healthy Communities Access Program that makes grants to local hospitals, health centers and

providers so that they can provide better integrated systems of care for the underinsured and uninsured. Lastly, as if cutting services wasn't enough, the conference agreement virtually decimates the Title VII Health Professions Training programs, cutting overall funding from \$300 million in FY 2005 to \$94 million in FY 2006.

Mr. Speaker, these drastic reductions to critical programs are not necessary. Ranking Member DAVID OBEY has consistently laid out a common-sense approach to this problem. By simply reducing the tax break for those with incomes greater than \$1 million, we could add funding for No Child Left Behind programs, maintain college affordability by increasing the money for Pell grants, shore up our health safety net programs, and rebuild our public health system to respond to pandemics and possible terrorist attacks. But these fiscally responsible efforts by Mr. OBEY and the Democrats have been defeated by the Republican majority at every turn. The result is this grossly underfunded bill which we are considering today.

In the end, this Congress will be judged by how well we have served the needs of all our citizens and communities. As a result, this Labor-HHS-Education Bill will not reflect kindly on us. We can and must do better for the future of our families, our children, our workers and our most vulnerable citizens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the conference report.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the conference report.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on adopting the conference report on H.R. 3010 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on passage of House Joint Resolution 72.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 209, nays 224, not voting 1, as follows:

[Roll No. 598]
YEAS—209

Aderholt	Cantor	Fossella	Cardoza	Honda	Murphy
Akin	Capito	Foxx	Carnahan	Hooley	Murtha
Alexander	Carter	Franks (AZ)	Carson	Hoyer	Nadler
Bachus	Chabot	Frelinghuysen	Case	Inslee	Matheson
Baker	Chocola	Gallegly	Castle	Fattah	Matsui
Barrett (SC)	Coble	Garrett (NJ)	Chandler	Filner	McCarthy
Bartlett (MD)	Cole (OK)	Gilchrest	Clay	Fitzpatrick (PA)	McCormick (MN)
Barton (TX)	Conaway	Gillmor	Cleaver	Ford	McDermott
Bass	Crenshaw	Gingrey	Clyburn	Frank (MA)	McGovern
Beauprez	Cubin	Gohmert	Conyers	Gerlach	McKinney
Biggert	Culberson	Goode	Cooper	Gibbons	McNulty
Bilirakis	Cunningham	Goodlatte	Costa	Gonzalez	Meehan
Bishop (UT)	Davis (KY)	Granger	Costello	Gordon	Meek (FL)
Blackburn	Davis, Jo Ann	Graves	Cramer	Green, Al	Meeks (NY)
Blunt	Davis, Tom	Green (WI)	Crowley	Green, Gene	Melancon
Boehlert	Deal (GA)	Gutknecht	Cuellar	Hinchey	Menendez
Boehner	DeLay	Hall	Cummings	Hinojosa	Michaud
Bonilla	Dent	Harris	Davis (AL)	Holden	Millender
Bonner	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hart	Costa	Harman	McDonald
Bono	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hastert	Granger	Hastings (FL)	Miller (NC)
Boozman	Doolittle	Hastings (WA)	Cleaver	Herseth	Mollohan
Boustany	Drake	Hayes	Gilligan	Higinson	Moore (KS)
Bradley (NH)	Dreier	Hayworth	Conyers	Hinchey	Moore (WI)
Brady (TX)	Duncan	Hefley	Cooper	Connelly	Moran (KS)
Brown (SC)	Ehlers	Hensarling	Costa	Gonzalez	Moran (VA)
Brown-Waite,	English (PA)	Herger	Costello	Jackson (IL)	Oberstar
Ginny	Everett	Hobson	Cramer	Kanjorski	Olver
Burgess	Feeney	Hoekstra	Crowley	Kaptur	Ortiz
Burton (IN)	Ferguson	Hostettler	Cuellar	Jefferson	Paul
Buyer	Flake	Hulshof	Cummings	Kildee	Payne
Calvert	Foley	Hunter	Davis (AL)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Pelosi
Camp	Forbes	Hyde	Costa	Jones (OH)	Pallone
Cannon	Fortenberry	Inglis (SC)	Granger	Kanjorski	Pascarella
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			Costello	Jefferson	Olver
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			Cramer	Jefferson	Olver
			Crowley	Kildee	Ortiz
			Cuellar	Jones (OH)	Paul
			Cummings	Kilpatrick (MI)	Payne
			Davis (AL)	Jones (OH)	Pelosi
			Costa	Kanjorski	Pallone
			Granger	Kaptur	Pascarella
			Costello	Jefferson	Olver
			Cramer	Kildee	Ortiz
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			Cuellar	Kilpatrick (MI)	Payne
			Cummings	Jones (OH)	Pelosi
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			Cuellar	Kaptur	Pascarella
			Cummings	Jefferson	Olver
			Davis (AL)	Kildee	Ortiz
			Costa	Jones (OH)</	

Rush	Slaughter	Udall (CO)
Ryan (OH)	Smith (WA)	Udall (NM)
Sabo	Snyder	Van Hollen
Salazar	Solis	Velázquez
Sánchez, Linda T.	Spratt	Visclosky
Sanchez, Loretta	Stark	Wasserman
Sanders	Stearns	Schultz
Schakowsky	Strickland	Waters
Schiff	Stupak	Watson
Schwartz (PA)	Tanner	Watt
Scott (GA)	Tauscher	Waxman
Scott (VA)	Taylor (MS)	Weiner
Serrano	Thomas	Wexler
Sherman	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (NM)
Simmons	Thompson (MS)	Woolsey
Skelton	Tierney	Wu
	Towns	Wynn

NOT VOTING—1

Boswell

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PELOSI (during the vote). Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. Has it now been 30 minutes for a 15-minute vote?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Clause 2(a) of rule XX establishes 15 minutes as a minimum time. The rule does not state a maximum amount of time.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how much longer will it take for the Republican leadership to pass this terrible attack on America's children?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman does not state a parliamentary inquiry.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how much longer will you hold this vote open?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair intends to bring the vote to a close at such time as he believes that Members have finished voting.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, how many Members have not yet voted?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has affirmed that the rules establish a minimum duration of the vote. The rules do not set a maximum duration. The Chair intends to bring the vote to a close at such time as he believes that Members have finished voting.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, is the vote being held open to change votes or are there Members who have not voted?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will leave the vote open until he believes Members have finished voting.

Ms. PELOSI. I hope we will not be waiting too much longer, Mr. Speaker.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. PELOSI (during the vote). Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, is it not a part of the rules of the House for Members who wish to change their votes for them to come to the well to change their votes and not keep the machines open to do that?

Mr. Speaker, is it not further part of the usual procedure of the House for the Chair to announce the changes as they come in?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk has announced changes. The voting stations cannot accept further changes at this point. Any further changes must be made in the well.

□ 1413

Messrs. RUSH, HONDA and GUTIERREZ changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, HEFLEY, GINGREY, TANCREDO, FRANKS of Arizona, FLAKE, YOUNG of Alaska, JONES of North Carolina and Ms. HART, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mrs. CUBIN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the conference report was not agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The pending business is the vote on passage of House Joint Resolution 72 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 16, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 599]

YEAS—413

Abercrombie	Camp	Ehlers	Higgins	McKinney	Ryan (WI)
Ackerman	Cannon	Emanuel	Hinchey	McMorris	Ryun (KS)
Aderholt	Cantor	Emerson	Hinojosa	McNulty	Sabo
Akin	Capito	Engel	Hobson	Meehan	Salazar
Alexander	Capps	English (PA)	Hoekstra	Meek (FL)	Sánchez, Linda T.
Allen	Cardin	Eshoo	Holden	Meeks (NY)	Sánchez, Loretta
Andrews	Cardoza	Etheridge	Holt	Melancon	Sanders
Baca	Carson	Evans	Honda	Menendez	Saxton
Bachus	Carter	Everett	Hooley	Mica	Schakowsky
Baird	Case	Farr	Hostettler	Michaud	Schiff
Baker	Castle	Fattah	Hoyer	Millender-	Schmidt
Baldwin	Chabot	Feeney	Hulshof	McDonald	Schwartz (PA)
Barrett (SC)	Chandler	Ferguson	Hunter	Miller (FL)	Schwartz (MI)
Barrow	Chocola	Filner	Hyde	Miller (MI)	Scott (GA)
Bartlett (MD)	Clay	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Inglis (SC)	Miller (NC)	Scott (VA)
Barton (TX)	Cleaver	Flake	Inslee	Miller, Gary	Sensenbrenner
Bass	Clyburn	Foley	Israel	Miller, George	Serrano
Bean	Coble	Forbes	Issa	Mollohan	Sessions
Beauprez	Cole (OK)	Fortenberry	Istook	Moore (KS)	Shadegg
Berkley	Conaway	Fossella	Jackson-Lee (TX)	Moore (WI)	Shaw
Berman	Costa	Fox	Jefferson	Moran (KS)	Shays
Berry	Costello	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Jenkins	Moran (VA)	Sherman
Biggert	Cramer	Frake	Jindal	Murtha	Sherwood
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Foley	Johnson (CT)	Musgrave	Shimkus
Bishop (GA)	Crowley	Forbes	Johnson (IL)	Myrick	Shuster
Bishop (NY)	Cubin	Fortenberry	Johnson, E. B.	Nadler	Simmons
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Gibbons	Johnson, Sam	Napolitano	Simpson
Blackburn	Culberson	Gilcrest	Jones (NC)	Neal (MA)	Skelton
Blumenauer	Cummings	Gillmor	Jones (OH)	Neugebauer	Slaughter
Blunt	Cunningham	Gingrey	Kanjorski	Ney	Smith (NJ)
Boehlert	Davis (AL)	Goehring	Kaptur	Northup	Smith (TX)
Boehner	Davis (CA)	Gohmert	Keller	Norwood	Smith (WA)
Bonilla	Davis (FL)	Gonzalez	Kelly	Nunes	Snyder
Bonner	Davis (IL)	Goode	Kennedy (MN)	Nussle	Sodrel
Bono	Davis (KY)	Goodlatte	Kennedy (RI)	Oberstar	Solis
Boozman	Davis (TN)	Gordon	Kildee	Obey	Souder
Boren	Davis, Jo Ann	Granger	Ferguson	Kilpatrick (MI)	Spratt
Boucher	Davis, Tom	Graves	Filner	Olver	Stark
Boustany	Deal (GA)	Green (WI)	Fortenberry	King (IA)	Stearns
Boyd	DeGette	Green, Al	Gibbons	King (NY)	Strickland
Bradley (NH)	Delahunt	Green, Gene	Gilcrest	Kirk	Thornberry
Brady (PA)	DeLauro	Gutierrez	Gillmor	Latham	Tiaht
Brady (TX)	DeLay	Gutknecht	Goode	Lazarus	Tanner
Brown (OH)	Dent	Hall	Harris	Linderman	Tauscher
Brown (SC)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Harman	Hastings (WA)	Lofland	Taylor (MS)
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, M.	Harris	Hastings (WI)	Lofland	Taylor (NC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny	Dicks	Hart	Hastings (WA)	Lofland	Terry
Burgess	Doggett	Hastings (WI)	Hastings (FL)	Lofland	Thomas
Burton (IN)	Doolittle	Hayes	Hayworth	Lofland	Thompson (CA)
Butterfield	Doyle	Heffley	Hensarling	Lofland	Thompson (MS)
Buyer	Drake	Herger	Herseth	Lofland	Thornberry
Calvert	Duncan	Herseth	Hollingsworth	Lofland	Tiaht
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