

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

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RAHALL SUPPORTS FUNDING FOR LABOR, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall today called the House passage of the appropriation for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education a positive sign for West Virginians.

Rahall spoke favorably of the House Fiscal Year 1988 appropriations for employment and training programs sponsored by the Department of Labor and criticized administration policy.

"I am pleased that the Appropriations Committee has seen fit to significantly increase the funding levels of vital employment and training programs over the Reagan administration's inadequate requests," Rahall said. "These programs are of special importance to us in West Virginia where we continue to suffer from high levels of unemployment, in part due to the policies of the current administration."

The bill also includes funding for the summer youth program; the Job Corps, with a prohibition against closing Job Corps centers; and programs authorized by the Trade Act.

"I am especially pleased that funding is included for training, job search and relocation assistance programs authorized by the Trade Act," Rahall said. "It should be pointed out that the administration requested no funding for these programs which assist workers who have been adversely affected by foreign trade."

Also important to many West Virginians is a provision granting the authority to expend \$686.4 million from the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund. That amount is an increase of approximately \$50 million over the 1987 amount.

In the health field, a total of \$945.4 million has been allocated for research, education and other activities relating to AIDS, a step Rahall calls a great need.

"This is an issue which is raising concern nationwide. I have received correspondence from many of my fellow West Virginians in this regard and have strived to provide them with whatever information is available," Rahall commented. "There is indeed a great need for research into this disease as well as education for both the public and health care givers to help make people aware of the dangers and limitations of AIDS."

With regard to education, the appropriations bill continued funding for programs vital to West Virginia, including Head Start, Education of the Handicapped and the Pell Grant Program.

"Without these educational funds, the future for students would be bleak, and the cost to the nation would be far greater than the funds provided for this educational effort," Rahall said. "This bill allocates a modest increase for such priority education programs targeted to our most disadvantaged students and maintains the base of existing educational services and aid now in place."

The \$20.6 billion total appropriation for education follows through the congressional commitment made in the FY-88 budget resolution. The bill works within the budget resolution's budget authority and outlay ceilings for education spending.