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From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 21, 1987

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RAHALL SAYS HOUSE PASSED EDUCATION BILL TO HELP STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) says the educational funding bill passed by the House today will be a major step forward in providing educational opportunities in West Virginia.

During debate on the bill, Rahall called education the key to America's future and stressed that a greater commitment should be given in regards to educating young minds.

"The education of our youth must be a national priority," Rahall said. "All of the federal dollars to enhance defense, technology, medical training and many other areas are virtually useless without the basic education provided at the elementary and secondary levels. The federal, state and local levels of government and community must work together to provide a future of hope and promise for our children who will be tomorrow's leaders. I cast my vote for a promising tomorrow by supporting this bill."

Among its provisions, H.R. 5 authorizes new preschool and high school programs to encourage the expansion of compensatory services beyond the elementary level and provides \$100 million in Fiscal Year 1988 for high school dropout prevention programs. Rahall was an original cosponsor of the School Dropout Prevention Assistance Act which was the original vehicle for the dropout prevention provisions contained in H.R. 5.

"There are a number of dropout prevention programs which I have had the pleasure of working with to coordinate federal, school and community efforts," Rahall said. "In particular, the Cabell County Public Schools Dropout Prevention Program has been a model effort in the battle."

The School Improvement Act will now go to the Senate for consideration.