

News
From _____

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RAHALL PRAISES PASSAGE OF APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WASHINGTON, DC - Citing that the appropriation measure passed by the House late Thursday night is vital to the maintenance of many programs throughout the remainder of fiscal year 1987, U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) praised colleagues for approving a bill which is less than what the president requested.

"This measure appropriates \$11.3 billion, which is \$1.1 billion less than requested by the President," Rahall said. "Yet we have efficiently appropriated money for many vital programs."

The bill includes funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that would aid the homeless. West Virginia stands to gain roughly \$739,000. Of that amount, approximately \$523,000 would be under the governor's discretion while the city of Huntington will receive \$70,000, Charleston \$67,000, Wheeling \$47,000 and Parkersburg \$32,000.

"The plight of the homeless is very much a concern of mine and my colleagues throughout the nation," Rahall said. "Something has to be done to help the homeless and it is Congress' obligation to take action."

The bill also authorizes for West Virginia an estimated \$538,000 for existing food and shelter programs and for the Community Services Block Grant program to provide food, shelter and services to the homeless.

The state also stands to gain roughly \$224,100 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide funds to charitable organizations and local governments that run food and shelter programs for the homeless. Rahall's Fourth Congressional District would receive approximately \$60,000.

Rahall is pleased that additional funding has been included in the bill for worker retraining activities under the Trade Act of 1974. He expressed his support in a letter to the Appropriations Committee for an additional \$20 million be set aside for Trade Assistance.

"The Trade Adjustment Assistance Program is of great concern in West Virginia where many have lost their jobs because of increased foreign competition," Rahall said. "Many have worried that they would be left out in the cold in regards to funding for retraining programs. The funding in this bill will allow those people to receive the job training they so desperately need and deserve."

Also of great importance to West Virginia is the addition of monies for the Summer Youth Employment Program for youth this summer.

"West Virginia's portion of these funds would be \$558,859," Rahall stated. "With that addition, the state will have \$7,667,268 for this fiscal year to employ our disadvantaged youth."

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.