

News
From _____

CONGRESSMAN

Nick Rahall

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1988

CONTACT: JERRY BURKOT
202-225-3452

RAHALL SAYS BUDGET BELOW GRAMM-RUDMAN LIMITS: WILL AID EDUCATION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND UNEMPLOYED

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) said that the budget passed by the House today is a bipartisan effort designed toward solving the problem of the national debt. Rahall called it a workable, solvent plan for Fiscal Year 1989.

"This resolution has set the deficit level below the limits outlined by Gramm-Rudman and has set appropriations below the levels agreed to in the budget summit agreement reached last year," Rahall said. "It is important to note that this budget avoids the slash and burn attitude so often adopted by the administration toward smaller domestic programs."

Rahall pointed out that one of the most important assumptions in the resolution is the 8.4 percent increase in education funding, a 4-percent increase over the president's request.

"For too long we have put our educational needs on the back burner," Rahall declared. "Now, is the time to turn up the heat. When we invest in education, we have nothing to lose because we are investing in our future. The more a child learns about the world around him, the easier it becomes for him to find his niche. An educated citizenry depends less on social programs and more on individual ingenuity."

The Congressman also stated that funding for community and regional development seems to be the best that can be expected in view of the current budget situation.

"With this measure, the House has yet again resoundingly rejected the Reagan Administration's ludicrous attempts to eliminate programs such as the Appalachian Regional Commission, the Economic Development Administration and Urban Development Action Grants," Rahall said. "This proposal also counters the Administration's intent to severely cut back programs like the Community Development Block Grants and Farmers Home Administration rural development loans. The continuation and adequate funding of these programs is essential to the economic recovery and future well-being of my home state of West Virginia."

Rahall also supported a provision authorizing funds for an expanded dislocated workers program at an increase of \$645 million over FY88 levels.

"These funds enable those who have lost their jobs due to foreign imports to enroll in retraining programs to learn new, marketable skills," Rahall commented. "These programs are utilized by many unemployed coal miners in my District who desperately want to work so they may adequately provide for their families."