

News  
From \_\_\_\_\_

CONGRESSMAN

**Nick Rahall**

WEST VIRGINIA-4th DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1988

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## **LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION APPROPRIATION BILL PASSES, RAHALL SAYS PROGRAMS TO BENEFIT WEST VIRGINIANS**

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. House of Representatives today passed an appropriations bill that Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) said affects every one of his constituents. The House passed the Fiscal Year 1989 Appropriations Bill for Labor-Health & Human Services-Education by a 362-46 margin.

"I consider this bill to be one of the most important appropriations bills of the year since every one of my constituents will be affected at one time or another by one of the programs funded under this bill," Rahall told his colleagues in the House. "I am pleased that the committee has seen fit to significantly increase the funding levels of these vital programs over the Reagan Administration's inadequate requests."

The bill includes funding for the continuation of employment and training programs administered by the Department of Labor. These include the programs authorized by the Job Training Partnership Act and the Trade Act.

"The administration requested no funding whatever for the training, jobs search and relocation assistance authorized by the Trade Act. These programs are essential to the many West Virginia coal miners who have lost their jobs as a result of unfair trade policies pursued by the White House." Rahall said the bill additionally provides funding for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, which has been very successful in West Virginia, and for the Job Corps.

"Also of great significance to many West Virginians is a provision in the bill which grants the authority to obligate \$689 million from the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund," Rahall stated. "The trust fund pays compensation, medical and survivor benefits for those coal miners who have been stricken with this cruel, debilitating disease as a result of their employment in this nation's coal mines."

Rahall also pointed out that federal subsidies for Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security and AIDS research indicate the Congressional concern for a healthy America.

In Education, the bill increases funding for basic state grants, education for the handicapped, and vocational rehabilitation programs for the physically and mentally handicapped.

"It has been suggested many times and in many ways that our educational system is in need of a concerted rejuvenation. I will say it again because it cannot be said enough: An educated America is a strong America."

The measure now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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