



U.S. Congressman

Nick Rahall*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT: STEPHEN SPINA****WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1989****PHONE: (202) 225-3452****RAHALL ANNOUNCES APPROPRIATIONS FOR LABOR-HHS-EDUCATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV) announced today that the House of Representatives has passed the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 1990, which appropriates \$156.7 billion to the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments of the Federal Government.

For the Department of Labor, a total of \$6.7 billion has been appropriated of which 4 billion has been earmarked for job training, including \$1.8 billion for the Job training Block Grant, \$709 million for the nation's Summer Youth Employment program, and \$470 million for the Dislocated Workers program, which helps displaced workers to find new employment and helps them to be retrained. Also, Job Corps received \$814 million for their employment program.

Another valuable program that has received funding for fiscal year 1990 is the popular Community Service Employment for Older Americans. They received a full \$362 million for this program, which provides part-time employment in community service activities for unemployed, low-income people aged 55 and over. Also, Senior Citizens will be happy to find that the appropriations bill will fund a full \$732 million for aging programs, including \$275.7 million for supportive services and centers, 356.7 million for congregate meals, \$80 million for home-delivered meals, and \$6 million for in-home services for the frail elderly. Also, the bill appropriates \$30.1 billion for the Medicaid costs in FY 1990. If you add that to the \$9 billion already appropriated for FY 1989, you will find that \$39.1 billion will be available to Medicaid for FY 1990.

"It is of particular importance, especially at this time when more and more baby-boomers move into the over 65 category, that we pay particular attention to their needs and make sure that they will have the funds available to them so that they can enjoy the twilight years of their life," said Rahall.

The Health and Human Services Department also received substantial funding including a total of \$1.9 billion for alcohol, drug abuse, and mental health programs. This program is of particular interest to West Virginia because it appropriates \$28 million for state grants to assist mentally ill people who are homeless, or about to become homeless. Also, the Homeless scored another victory in this legislation. The McKinney Act was funded \$178 million for its various programs.

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"I applaud the decision of my fellow members to grant such funding that will allow us to try and deal with the problem of homelessness," said Rahall. "It is time to start dealing with these problems by searching for solutions, instead of just trying to keep things in check."

Head Start, another valuable program to West Virginia, has been appropriated \$1.4 billion to continue its work with culturally disadvantaged children. The bill also provides authority to spend \$11.7 billion in FY 1990 for Family Support Payments to states, of which \$9.3 billion has been earmarked for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC).

On the Education side of the platter, \$5.4 billion has been granted for Chapter 1 compensatory education programs, of which \$4.8 billion is for grants to school districts, and 400 million is to be distributed under the concentration grant formula that provides funds to school districts with high concentrations of low-income children.

"This was of particular importance to me during the Education and Labor committee hearings because I was concerned about the need for concentration grants for low-income children," said Rahall. "This money is of particular help to West Virginia where school districts are in need of more funds to take care of the special needs of underprivileged kids."

The Department of Education also received \$463 million for the Chapter 2 block grant program, \$365.5 million for the Drug-free schools and communities programs, \$137 million for math and science education, and \$115 million for the magnet school program, which assists school districts that use magnet schools as part of a desegregation plan. Also appropriated were \$943 million for vocational education and \$195.5 million for adult education.

"I realize that in these times of fiscal restraint that we must move cautiously down the road to economic recovery," said Rahall. "And in as much as I am pleased with the monies that have been granted, I cannot help but hope that the day of the quick-fix budget solution, the high priced defense burden, and the favoritism of the special interest will come to an end. Only then will the important issues like education and child care receive the attention that they deserve."