

U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 23, 1994

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER  
Acting Press Secretary  
Phone: (202) 225-345212

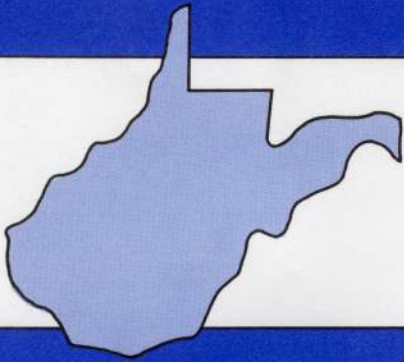
**Actualty of U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall on H.R. 6**

The following actualty of Rep. Rahall is available by dialing:  
**202 225-0880**

"I will vote to amend language in H.R. 6 that could be interpreted to require State certification of home schooling parents or teachers within the Christian School community.

"This flies in the face of our traditional educational values and should be changed. Governing home schools and private religious schools falls under current West Virginia law. It should remain as such, with no federal intervention."

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**Statement of U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall on H.R. 6**

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House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

MEMORANDUM

CMAW -

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**Improving America's School Act (H.R. 6; a DSG Fact Sheet will be available prior to Floor consideration.)**

**FLOOR SITUATION:** The Education and Labor Committee is expected to request a rule that requires that amendments be printed in the *Congressional Record*. The Rules Committee has requested that Members seeking to offer amendments submit them to the *Congressional Record* on either Tuesday, February 22, or Wednesday, February 23. The bill will be managed by Rep. Kildee, Chairman of the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Elementary, Secondary, and Vocational Education.

**BACKGROUND:** The Education and Labor Committee reported the bill by a vote of 29 to 14 with minority, supplemental, and additional views (H.Rept. 103-425).

Authorization for most federal elementary and secondary education programs expire at the end of this fiscal year.

**SUMMARY:** Following is a brief summary of the bill. A DSG Fact Sheet, containing a more detailed description of the bill's provisions, will be available prior to Floor consideration.

This bill reauthorizes most federal elementary and secondary education programs, including the Chapter 1 Compensatory Education program, for five years. The bill generally authorizes specific sums for FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 1996 through 1999. The measure also restructures these programs in ways designed to assist states and school districts in their school reform efforts.

### Compensatory Education

The bill authorizes a total of \$8.0 BILLION in FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 1996 through 1999, for the Title I Compensatory Education program. Most of this total (\$7.4 BILLION or 92%) is for grants to school districts to provide compensatory education services to disadvantaged children.

The bill restructures the program to focus on helping these children achieve high performance standards, rather than remedial low-level skills, and to provide schools with more decision-making authority and flexibility in return for greater responsibility for student performance.

Breakdown  
of programs  
authorized  
in the Bill  
follows here.



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## Improving America's School Act (cont.)

### *Formulas for Distributing Funds*

Current law provides two kinds of compensatory education grants to school districts – basic grants and concentration grants. Current law distributes funds to school districts under a formula that is based primarily on the number of poor school-aged children and the amount a state spends per pupil. Current law requires that 10% of the appropriation for grants to school districts be distributed according to a formula under which only school districts in counties with 6,500 poor children, or where such children constitute 15% of the school-age population, are eligible.

The bill uses two different formulas to distribute Title I funds to school districts – one formula to distribute funds up to the FY 1994 appropriation level, and another to distribute funds above that level.

Under the bill, funds equal to the FY 1994 appropriation of \$6.3 BILLION would be distributed according to the formula in current law, including the requirement that 10% of the funds be allocated according to the existing formula.

For Title I grant funds in excess of the FY 1994 appropriation, the bill establishes a new "weighted student" formula that provides greater targeting of funds on areas with high concentrations of poor students, while still providing additional funding to other areas as well.

This new formula is the same as the current formula for basic grants, except that the children counted in the new formula would be assigned weights that would increase as the district's poverty rate or the number of poor school age children increases.

The bill makes two further changes in the way funds are distributed. First, all grants would be calculated on the basis of the number of poor children in school districts, instead of in counties (as is currently the case). Second, the data to be used would be updated every two years by the Census Bureau, beginning in 1996. (Currently, the data is updated only every 10 years, after a census.)

The bill also changes the way that Title I funds are distributed to schools within a school district. In order to assure that these funds are not spread too thinly, the bill requires that school districts fund all schools in which 75% of the children come from low-income families before they fund schools with fewer poor children.



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## Improving America's School Act (cont.)

### *State Plans*

The bill requires states that wish to receive Title I funds to submit a plan to the Education Department that describes the curriculum content, student performance standards, and "opportunity to learn" standards, i.e. the factors that must be present to assist students to achieve the performance standards.

### *Accountability & Program Improvement*

The bill requires each state to develop a definition of what constitutes "adequate yearly progress" by schools and school districts towards enabling Title I children to meet clearly defined objectives. Schools that fail for two consecutive years to meet the state's definition of adequate progress would be designated as schools in need of improvement, and would be required to revise their school plan in order to improve the performance of children in the school. The bill requires the school district to take corrective action in the case of a school that fails to make adequate progress after being in an improvement program for three years and after receiving technical assistance. These corrective measures must be in compliance with state law, and could include such things as reducing the school's decision-making authority, creating a charter school, or reconstituting the school's staff.

The bill establishes a similar accountability and improvement procedure for school districts.

### *Other Title I Provisions*

The bill also includes the following Title I provisions:

- **School-Wide Programs** — Under current law, only schools in which 75% of the student population comes from poor families are eligible to operate school-wide programs to upgrade programs for all the school's children, not just Title I children. The bill reduces this percentage to 65% in the 1995-1996 school year, and to 60% in subsequent years;

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## **Improving America's School Act (cont.)**

- **Even-Start** – The measure authorizes \$118 million in FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 1996 through 1999, for the Even Start Family Literacy Program which combines early childhood education with adult literacy, basic skills instruction, and parenting education for the parents; and
- **Migrant Children** – The measure authorizes \$310 million in FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 1996 through 1999, for the Title I program that makes grants to state agencies to help meet the special education needs of the children of migrant workers.

### **Eisenhower Professional Development Program**

The bill authorizes \$800 million in FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary in each of the following four years, for the Eisenhower Professional Development program. This program is intended to provide teachers in core academic subject areas with sustained and high-quality professional development, with the bulk of the funds going to school districts.

The bill requires that school districts that receive funds under this program must, by July 1, 1998, certify to their state education agency that all full-time teachers in their public schools are certified to teach the academic subjects to which they are assigned.

### **Other Programs**

The bill also includes authorizations for the following programs:

- **Drug-Free Schools** – \$655 million in FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary in fiscal years 1996 through 1999, for Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities programs;
- **Chapter 2 Block Grant** – \$435 million in FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary for the following four years, for a revised version of the Chapter 2 Block Grant program;



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## Improving America's School Act (cont.)

- **Impact Aid** – \$533 million for the Impact Aid program in FY 1995, and such sums as may be necessary in each of the following four years; and
- **Bilingual Education** – \$255 million in FY 1995, and such sums in fiscal years 1996 through 1999, for bilingual and immigrant education programs.

## CBO Cost Estimate

This measure is an authorization bill and is not covered by spending limitations in the Budget Act or any budget resolution because it does not directly result in expenditures. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that if Congress appropriates the full amount authorized in the bill, outlays would be \$1.9 BILLION in FY 1995, \$10.0 BILLION in FY 1996, \$12.5 BILLION in FY 1997, \$13.0 BILLION in FY 1998, and \$13.4 BILLION in FY 1999. In many cases, however, Congress does not appropriate the full amount contained in authorization measures.

**AMENDMENTS:** The Rules Committee has requested that Members wishing to offer amendments submit them to the *Congressional Record* on Tuesday, February 22, or Wednesday, February 23.

**COMMENTARY:** The Administration position was unavailable as of press time Friday.

DSG Contact: Joe Nyitray





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TO: ~~Gann~~ *HK, BK* *MEMO* *OK*FROM: ~~Kent, BK~~

DATE: February 22, 1984

SUBJECT: HR 6 - Press Response

Ann Saker from Gannett wants a statement from you on HR 6.  
Is following ok?

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MEMO

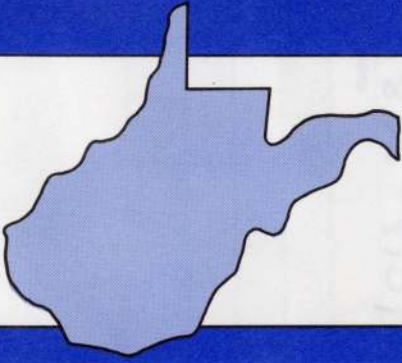
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U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 24, 1994

CONTACT: KENT KEYSER  
Acting Press Secretary  
Phone: (202) 225-345212

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