

## **Kline/Tiahrt amendment to Labor/HHS/Ed Appropriations Bill**

This amendment would increase funding for Part B (State Grants) of IDEA by \$1 billion. The bill, as currently written, provides 16.9% of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities. This amendment would increase that to 18.3%. CBO has scored this amendment as being budget authority neutral and saving over \$300 million in outlays. The Parliamentarian's Office has determined that the amendment is in order under House Rules.

Proposed offsets:

### Elimination of new programs

#### **National Teacher Recruitment Campaign** **-\$10 million**

- This program is authorized under ESEA, but has never been funded. It provides funds for the Department to reach out to potential candidates for teaching positions.
- It is not necessary to fund a separate program for these activities as States already do this under the Improving Teacher Quality Grant program and by using their own local money.
- The Improving Teacher Quality Grant program assists States, school districts, and schools in recruiting highly qualified teachers.

#### **Career Pathways Innovation Fund** **-\$130 million**

- This is a new program created to train workers in the healthcare field.
- We already have a program to do this -- the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).
- It is not necessary to create a separate new job training program for each specific industry. Local workforce investment boards are already tasked with helping people find jobs in emerging and understaffed industries.
- Funding for job training programs under WIA was doubled under the economic stimulus package so creating this duplicative program is not necessary.

#### **Workforce Data Quality Initiative** **-\$15 million**

- This new program would support the development of State longitudinal data systems that integrate education and workforce data.
- We already have a program to do this – the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) operates a program that provides grants to States to develop data systems that include education and workforce information.
- The stimulus package included \$250 million for this data systems program at IES.

#### **Green Jobs** **-\$50 million**

- This program received \$500 million in the stimulus package, which has yet to be spent.
- More importantly, it is not necessary to fund a separate new job training program for the green industry. Through WIA, local workforce investment boards are already tasked with helping people find jobs in emerging industries, such as the energy efficiency field.

#### **New awards in Fund for Improvement of Education (FIE)** **-\$38 million**

- This program is a slush fund for the Secretary of Education to make awards for pilot projects and other grants at his discretion.

- The budget requests \$47 million for unspecified “new awards” next year.
- The Secretary already has \$5 billion in the “Race to the Top Fund” from the stimulus to support innovative reform activities.

#### Eliminating funding increases and level funding programs

##### **Global AIDS/TB/Malaria Fund Transfer** **-\$300 million**

- The Global Fund received \$150 million more in the House-passed State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill than requested by the Obama Administration.
- The Obama Administration is saying there is no current shortfall at the Global Fund. In fact, they have told us there will be sufficient contributions to fund Round 8 grants.

##### **Corporation for National Service** **-\$169 million**

- The Corporation for National Service received an extra \$201 million in the stimulus bill.
- This bill proposes a whopping 19% increase over last year’s level, which could be better used to help meet the IDEA commitment rather than to pay people to volunteer.

#### Elimination of ineffective or low-priority programs

##### **Education Technology State Grants** **-\$100 million**

- This program received \$650 million in the stimulus bill.
- The program has fulfilled its purpose to “close the digital divide” over the past 15 years: today, nearly all schools have Internet access and computers. There is no longer a need to fund a Federal program targeted specifically on technology.
- School districts can use Title I funds, teacher training, and stimulus funds for technology purchases or training teachers to use new equipment.

##### **Teaching of Traditional American History** **-\$100 million**

- This program provides competitive grants to promote teaching American history as a separate academic subject.
- A Federal program for such a specific subject area is not needed. Schools can use funding under Title I and teacher training programs to hire history teachers and design curricula.
- A 2005 Department of Education evaluation of the program found that grants were not reaching the teachers most in need of professional development services. Nearly ¾ of teachers had taught for more than 5 years and were already certified in history.

##### **Smaller Learning Communities** **-\$88 million**

- The goal of this program is laudable: to reduce the dropout rate and incidence of violence by creating smaller learning communities in large, impersonal high schools.
- The problem is we have no evidence that this approach is working. The Gates Foundation has spent \$2 billion on creating smaller high schools since 2000. They curtailed these efforts after realizing they were not achieving the hoped-for results.
- In 2004, the Department lapsed more than \$26 million in this program. The Department believed that this decrease in interest is because a large proportion of eligible high schools had already been reached.