

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 8, 2006

Senator William H. Frist
Senate Majority Leader

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader

Senator Thad Cochran
Chairman
Appropriations Committee

Senator Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Member
Appropriations Committee

Dear Colleagues:

As work continues on the fiscal year 2007 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, we urge you to provide no less than the fiscal year 2005 funding level for labor, health, and education programs as directed by the Specter-Harkin amendment to the budget resolution.

In March of this year, 73 Senators voted for the Specter-Harkin amendment to the budget resolution to provide an additional \$7 billion for a broad range of programs and services administered by the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. This increase would have restored funding for labor, health and education programs to the fiscal year 2005 funding level. However, the fiscal year 2006 Emergency Supplemental bill contained a "deeming resolution" that forced the Senate to make significant spending cuts in domestic programs. As a result, on July 20th, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out a bill that is \$2 billion short of the fiscal year 2005 level, effectively ignoring the intent of the Senate.

Millions of needy American families and students rely on the vital services and assistance funded through the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. We feel strongly that the funding we provide in this bill reflects an investment in the human infrastructure of our nation. At a time when the demand for job-training and education is critical to maintain America's competitiveness, and when the cost of health care and access to quality care are major issues for many Americans, we simply cannot afford to cut funding for health care and education. These cuts move our country in the wrong direction.

We, the undersigned, are committed to securing a final Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007 that includes the additional \$2 billion over the fiscal year 2007 Senate Committee bill as intended under the Specter-Harkin amendment to the fiscal year 2007 Senate Budget Resolution. Each of us will work to ensure that this priority funding is contained in the final legislation.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter



Tom Harkin

Nick DeLuca

Olympia Snowe

Rick Warren

Susan M. Collins

James M. Jeffords

P. J. Chafee

Chris Stenholm

Noah Coleman

Pat Roberts

Chris Hatch

Sam Brown

Herb Kohl

Joe Lieberman

Carl Levin

Mark Dayton

Murray

Maria Cantwell

Ken Salazar

Jeff Bingaman

Daniel J. Akaka

Ed Kennedy

Patty Murray

Jan Barbara

King Surtan

Tom F. King

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Em Boyl

Paul Sabene

Chuck Schum

Byron L. Dorgan

Jimmie Christian

Mut Larned

Nun Feingold

Dick Duck
Samuel Drea

Nellie Stenow

Jay R. Snyder

Frank R. Lautenberg

Chris Dodd

Patrick Leahy

Max Baucus

Robert A. Menendez

Robert Menendez

Max Baucus

Barbara Eger

Tom Cargy

Jack Reed

Joe Hill

Blanche L. Lincoln

Mary Gaskin

John Johnson

Bill Nelson

E. Benjamin Johnson

Th. W. G.

Jim Tolant
