



May 10, 2006



The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515



The Honorable Jim Nussle
Chairman
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Spratt
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
Washington, D.C. 20515



Dear Mr. Speaker, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Nussle, and Ranking Member Spratt:

As Governors, we understand that budgets are powerful policymaking tools that reflect our governments' values and priorities. We also understand that while fiscal responsibility is of paramount importance, government must never lose sight of its fundamental mission to serve and improve the lives of its citizens. From this perspective, we write to express our grave concerns about funding shortfalls in the House version of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 budget resolution.



As you know, in passing its budget resolution, the Senate overwhelmingly approved the Specter-Harkin amendment by a 73-27 margin. This amendment brought FY 2007 Labor-HHS-Education spending back up to FY 2005 levels by adding \$7 billion to the budget. As the House moves forward to adopt a budget resolution and complete its appropriations process, we urge you to allocate a comparable level of funding for the Labor-HHS-Education bill, which funds critical programs such as:



- The Community Services Block Grant, which funds efforts to reduce poverty and move families toward self-sufficiency;
- Workforce investment programs, which provide job placement services to 1.2 million workers and training services to an additional 124,000 workers;
- Over 40 educational programs, including Perkins Vocational and Technical Education State Grants, Educational Technology State Grants, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants; and
- The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which helps low-income families meet their home heating and cooling needs.



These programs represent the traditional federal-state partnership that has for years delivered critical services to our citizens. Without adequate support from the federal government, we will be unable to continue to meet these needs. We therefore urge you to take action on the House floor to restore \$7 billion in critical Labor-HHS-Education



funding, which will enable states to continue to deliver the health, education and workforce services on which so many Americans rely.

Respectfully,



Governor Janet Napolitano
Arizona



Governor Ruth Ann Minner
Delaware



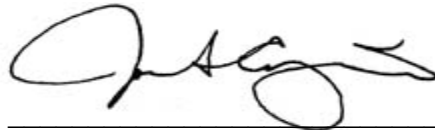
Governor Tom Vilsack
Iowa



Governor Kathleen Sebelius
Kansas



Governor Jennifer Granholm
Michigan



Governor Jon S. Corzine
New Jersey



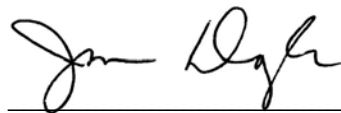
Governor Bill Richardson
New Mexico



Governor Ed Rendell
Pennsylvania

(Signature on original)

Governor Anibal Acevedo-Vila
Puerto Rico



Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin

cc: Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education

Senator Tom Harkin, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education