

measure includes many "poison pill" sections which were assured to fail individually. The administration continues to oppose provisions, contained in H.R. 4570, which would endanger our Nation's natural resources. The President has indicated that he will veto the measure in its current form.

I am concerned that the majority has chosen not to provide, sufficient opportunity to remedy and find consensus among Members regarding the deficiencies contained in this bill. In fact, there are seventeen provisions within this measure which have never been heard or taken up before the Committee on Resources. An additional forty-eight have yet to be reported out of committee. However, the bill's sponsors have chosen to combine these provisions without opportunity for and the benefit of debate or amendment. Such heavy handed and partisan tactics espouse the worst qualities of legislating in a politically motivated environment.

I take particular exception to several sections included in this bill. For example, I object to efforts which hinder Presidential authority, as granted under the Antiquities Act, to protect our most significant and valuable natural resources on Federal lands. Also, I am opposed to efforts to accelerate timber harvesting on Federal lands in the name of "forestry management."

In addition to circumventing the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this section does not allow for careful and prudent planning for timber harvesting. Further, it creates additional timber subsidies through a new credit program established for loggers. Such "poison pill" sections in this omnibus measure need to be addressed on a singular basis without hindering the passage of other non-controversial provisions.

Mr. Chairman, while I support many of the provisions contained in this omnibus act, I cannot support them with the many more environmentally adverse sections contained in this bill. Until such adverse provisions are removed from this bill, I will urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 4570, while continuing to work toward enactment of a bill that is responsive to the needs of our national parks and public lands.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 8, 1998*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4274) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1999. This

legislation essentially denies the weakest and most vulnerable of our nation's citizens important programs which provide positive opportunities to succeed in life. It shortchanges the youth of our nation by virtually eliminating the Administration's education agenda, subjects millions of America's most vulnerable families to hardships with the elimination of LIHEAP, dismantles common sense programs that help young people prepare for the world of work; and severely undercuts funding for programs which tackle labor issues such as adequate wages, organizing rights, worker health and safety enforcement.

As a former educator, I am a strong supporter of programs that invest in our nation's children. Education is the most important investment we can make to ensure the welfare of our nation's future. Our public schools face enormous challenges in the next several years, including record high numbers of students, increasing proportions of students with disabilities, billions of dollars in unmet infrastructure needs and the challenge of making education technology available to all students. To often I must report that as public schools struggle critics make their task more difficult rather than offer the resources. This irresponsible appropriation clearly ignores the fact that education has consistently been rated as a top priority of our constituents—it is almost impossible to list all of the negative provisions included, but let me highlight, some of the "low-lights". The Republican bill eliminates Title I reading and math assistance for 520,000 disadvantaged students; eliminates Perkins college loans and Byrd Scholarships for 120,000 students, cuts \$300 million from Goals 2000 and Eisenhower teacher training programs and turns them into block grants; and cuts funding for drug and violence prevention coordinators at 6,500 middle schools. It cuts funding for the School-to-Work program by \$250 million, eliminates funding for Star Schools, thereby shutting down innovative programs for using technology and telecommunications equipment in the classroom in low-income school districts. This Republican effort will withdraw funding for the Summer Youth Employment and Training program and will prevent over 530,000 young Americans from gaining work experience and learning the valuable work ethics.

Proponents of this bill gloss over and ignore these drastic cuts in education and will instead applaud the needed and provided increases for Pell Grants, TRIO, Impact Aid and Special education. However, the bill provides only a \$537 million, or 1.8% increase in program levels for the department of education—a figure which falls substantially below the 2.2% inflation rate projected for FY 99, so we are going backwards.

But that's not all. This bill doesn't just target the youth of our Nation to accept far less. H.R. 4247 is extreme in its disregard for the protection of our workforce. It provides inadequate funding for federal laws which protect their health and safety, and their right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. In addition, this bill ignores the growing need for highly skilled workers, cutting, nearly in half, the number of people who can participate in employment and training programs. This continued attack upon America's labor force and the extreme underfunding of principal programs which protect workers' wages, pensions, and equal opportunity rights is truly a slap in the face to the working families of America.

Finally, I am disappointed with this measure's elimination of funding for the Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP. LIHEAP provides heating and cooling assistance to 4.3 million low-income households by way of nurturing an effective funding partnership with all levels of government and the private sector. This is a crucial need in cold weather states such as Minnesota.

You don't have to be a meteorologist, scientist or environmentalist to notice the weather patterns in the past few years. Most Minnesotans are familiar with the extremes in weather-related conditions: dangerous winter temperatures down to 30 degrees below zero combined with even more frigid arctic windchills, producing advisory warnings against stepping outside with exposed skin for more than five minutes. We Minnesotans in turn sympathize with Texans this past summer, where at least 79 people died due to heat-related illnesses during the long, 100-plus degree heatwave. These extremes in temperatures translate into unpredictable energy bills for everyone, but have particularly dire consequences for individuals struggling on a limited income, and disparities of income have persisted and compound this program zero funding policy path.

It is estimated that the average American household spends 6.8 percent of its income on energy bills during the most expensive heating and cooling seasons. A low-income household spends an average of 17.4%, and sometimes up to 30%. That's at least two and a half times the average burden. We're talking about the poor elderly, children, low-income single parents—persons already hit with the struggles of welfare-to-work and cuts in Medicare coverage.

Yet in the wake of tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, the Republican leadership has seized upon this opportunity to create a battle between underserved populations. The Labor-HHS-Education bill justifies taking money out of LIHEAP to pay for an increase in our nation's medical research program. While I understand the importance of advancements in medical research, robbing Peter to pay Paul does not alleviate the long-term health, nutrition and safety problems caused by placing low-income individuals in between a rock and a hard place, forcing them to decide whether to heat or eat. Energy assistance is one of the simplest and most effective ways of preventing individuals from having to make that choice. Should we really expect the poorest of the poor, the working poor to be the qualitative cut that will help us fight the great ills that have faced mankind through the ages.

I urge my colleagues to express their commitment to a more preventive approach to meeting the needs of underserved populations. Vote no on the current Labor-HHS-Education appropriations package.

SONNY BONO COPYRIGHT TERM  
EXTENSION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 7, 1998*

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Title I of S. 505, the Copyright