

conferees on both the House and Senate side. As we all know, the Senate adopted this resolution yesterday.

I urge my colleagues to support the resolution that we have before us.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his explanation.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEASURES TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER SUSPENSION OF THE RULES ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2001

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the notice requirements of House Resolution 314, I announce that the following measures will be considered under suspension of the rules on Wednesday, December 19, 2001: H.R. 2336; H.R. 3525; and H.R. 3423.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report accompanying H.R. 3061, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3061, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, December 18, 2001, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of Tuesday, December 18, 2001.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today we bring before the House the conference report providing appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies for fiscal year 2002.

It is my pleasure to present this report today. It is the result of the dedication and hard work of the members of the subcommittee and staff, and I want to express my deep appreciation to each of them. I would especially like to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking member of both the full Committee on Appropriations and of this subcommittee. It has been a pleasure to work with him from the start as we crafted a bipartisan bill which passed this body earlier through our work together on the conference.

I would also like to thank the subcommittee staff on both sides of the aisle for their very hard work and the long hours they have put in to finalize the conference report before us. Thank you to Craig Higgins, the Clerk of the Committee, Carol Murphy, Susan Firth, Meg Snyder, Francine Mack-Salvador and Nicole Wheeler on the majority side, and to David Reich, Cheryl Smith and Linda Pagelsen on the minority side. They have been a great team. They have worked all night for the last two nights putting this together, and we owe them a vote of appreciation.

This conference report is a very good product. It contains the funding for many outstanding programs for people. First, is the funding for the President's education reform measures. Last week we passed landmark legislation setting the policy for elementary and secondary education reform, and today we are providing the funding that will make these reforms a reality.

We have funded State grants for improving teacher quality at \$2.85 billion. This flexible grant will allow States to develop programs for teachers in areas most important to those States. In other words, we are recognizing States' rights to make the fundamental decisions on education.

I want to emphasize the commitment of the committee to teacher quality and support in the areas of math and science. We will later have a colloquy on that subject and the flexibility within this grant for such programs, in addition to a specific program for math and science partnerships.

I am also pleased that we have included funding for the Troops to Teachers/Transition to Teaching and the Teach for America programs for a total of \$88 million. We hear a lot about the pending shortage of teachers, and I think this bill will do a lot to address that problem and to ensure that good people get into the classroom. The key to success in the classroom is a good teacher, and all of these programs show great promise in recruiting, training and keeping just those people.

In total, education programs receive a 16 percent increase in the bill, a majority of which is in three areas. These include elementary and secondary education, Special Education and Pell Grants. Grants to the States for Title I total \$10.3 billion, grants to the States for Special Education total \$7.5 billion, and Pell Grants are funded at a maximum grant level of \$4,000 per student.

Although our current economic slowdown has sent more students back to school than has been anticipated, it was the belief of the members of the Conference Committee that we must uphold our commitment to the students and retain the maximum \$4,000 level. Also the TRIO grant program receives \$802.5 million.

In health programs, I am pleased to report that funding for the National Institutes of Health increases by 14.7 percent, at over \$23 billion. This additional funding will allow a greater percentage of competitive research grant projects to receive funding in such important areas as Parkinson's disease, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and even in many rare diseases. Again, we recognize particularly in these times after September 11 how important it is that we do research on health issues, and NIH is the flagship for this, not only for the United States, but for the entire world.

As the events of September 11 have impacted on each of us and changed our lives, we have come to recognize the important role of our public health system. Funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention increases \$600 million over last year, for a total of \$4.3 billion. I might point out that the State health departments and local health departments, which are the shock troops, they are in the trenches on all of these threats that we hear about in anthrax and TB, basically start with the Centers for Disease Control. We have recognized that by increasing their budget.

Programs at the CDC are our first line of defense in threats of bioterrorism. They also put important research knowledge into practice through outreach and education, leading to improvements in the health of our Nation today. By the way, at the urging of our committee, they have a hotline now, so if you have a problem in your community, you have a 1-800 number, and you can get help immediately.

The conference report includes funding for several of the President's faith-based programs, including \$30 million for the Compassion Capital Fund, a program which will support grants to public-private partnerships for charitable organizations in expanding or emulating model social service agencies. \$70 million is included for the Safe and Stable Families program, and \$5 million for the new Volunteers for Homeland Security.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss briefly the issue of mental health parity. As many Members are