

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2006

The Honorable John Boehner  
House Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Leader Boehner:

As Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) winds down, we remain particularly concerned about the final funding level for the FY07 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill, which the House has not yet considered. We are writing to respectfully remind you of the agreement to provide no less than \$7 billion above the Administration's request. This amount is equal to the funding enacted in FY06 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill, plus a 2% inflationary increase.

As a result of negotiations undertaken while developing the 302(b) allocations in the House, over \$6 billion was shifted from Defense and Foreign Operations accounts into other areas of domestic discretionary spending. Approximately \$4.1 billion was shifted to Labor HHS Education.

Upon further negotiations, you and other members of our Leadership committed to providing no less than \$3 billion above the \$4.1 billion that had already been shifted for programs funded by this Subcommittee. In addition to the important health and education programs such as NIH and Higher Education, other domestic priorities were negotiated for no less than the amount funded in FY06 approps bills: Byrne and COPS grants in SSJC Approps; the Community Development Block Grant in TTHUD; and adequate funding to accommodate the President's Competitiveness Initiative.

Our agreement is reflected as a Sense of the House of Representatives in the FY 07 Budget Resolution, which stated:

A. "The House of Representatives recognizes the need to increase the President's fiscal year 2007 request for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriation bill by not less than \$7,158,000,000. "

B. "There should be included in any offsets enacted to provide for the increases relative to the President's request for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill a rescission of at least \$1,000,000,000 from available, unobligated funds previously appropriated for reconstruction activities in Iraq."

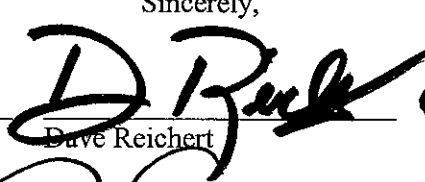
Consistent with our agreement, \$4.1 billion has already been included in H.R. 5647, the House Appropriations' Committee Labor, HHS, Education Bill. You also committed that the additional \$3 billion will not come from mandatory programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, foster care programs and others that serve the very people we are trying to help. Any offsets should not reduce services or adversely affect the neediest among us.

We appreciate your work to live up to this agreement and your willingness to incorporate these priorities in the federal allocation for the fiscal year 2007 Labor, Health, and Education Appropriations bill. We strongly support fulfilling this agreement before the end of the legislative year.

Sincerely,



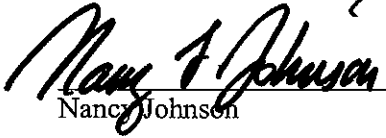
Michael Castle



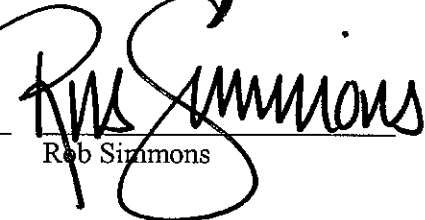
Dave Reichert



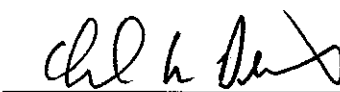
Christopher Shays



Nancy Johnson



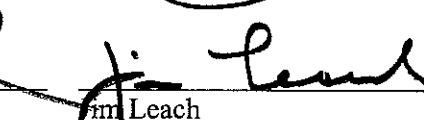
Rob Simmons



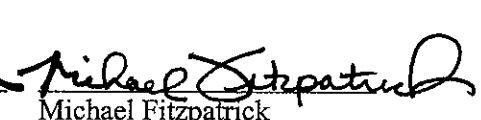
Charlie Dent



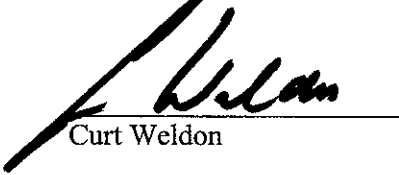
Jim Gerlach



Jim Leach



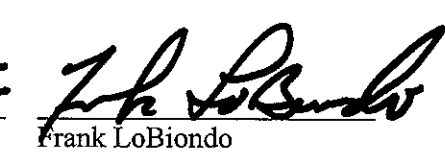
Michael Fitzpatrick



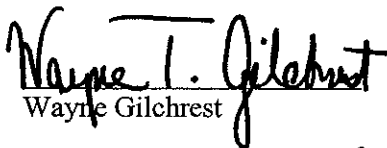
Curt Weldon



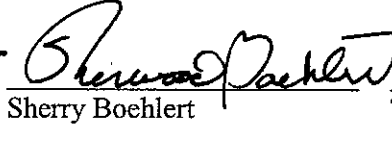
Judy Biggert



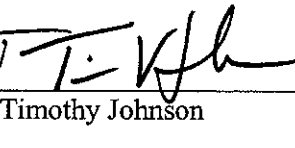
Frank LoBiondo



Wayne Gilchrest



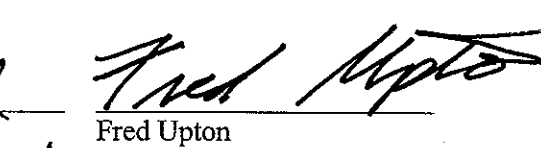
Sherry Boehlert



Timothy Johnson



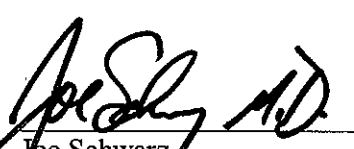
Todd Russell Platts



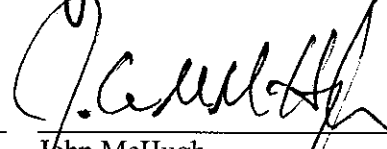
Jim Ramstad



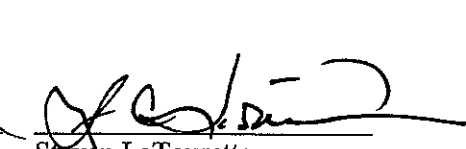
Fred Upton



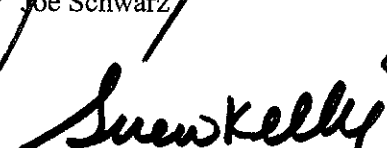
Joe Schwarz



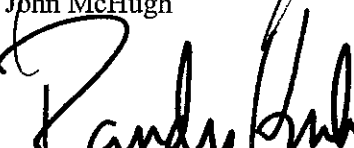
John McHugh



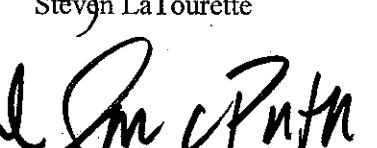
Steven LaTourette



Sue Kelly



Randy Kuhl



Tom Porter