

On the Hill

The Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday approved the fiscal year 2011 spending measure for programs in the following departments: Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. The bill provides \$169.6 billion in discretionary funding for a range of programs that will help create jobs and train American workers target fraud and abuse and incentivize states and local communities to reform their health, workforce and education systems. Highlights of the spending measure include: an increase of nearly \$163.6 million over the fiscal year 2010 level for state grants for job training and employment services, for a total of \$3.8 billion; a \$25 million increase for the Green Jobs Innovation Fund, for a total of \$65 million; \$10 million to create a State Paid Leave initiative which will provide competitive grants to help states establish paid leave programs, which typically offer up to 6 weeks of benefits to workers who must take time off to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, or parent, or to bond with a newborn or recently adopted child). Also included is an increase of \$38.2 million for local programs that provide congregate and home-delivered meals to seniors; \$14.9 billion for title I grants to local education agencies for improving education for low-income students; and \$242 million for five new Workforce Innovation Funds which will be administered jointly by the Secretaries of Labor and Education, including \$55 million for dislocated workers, \$35 million for adult job training, \$27 million for disabled individuals and \$30 million for adult education programs.

The House on Tuesday sent a \$59 billion emergency war supplemental spending bill to President Obama, ending months of deliberations. The chamber approved the measure 308-114, with 160 Republicans and 148 Democrats voting in favor. The Senate passed the package in May. However, before the July 4th recess, the bill stalled because House Democrats, led by Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-WI), added \$23 billion in domestic spending to the Senate bill, including \$10 billion to keep teachers on the job. The Senate refused to back the additional spending and returned the supplemental bill to the House. The Senate action came after the White House issued a veto threat on the House measure over an \$800 million rescission to education programs that Rep. Obey had used to help offset the \$23 billion domestic spending portion. The \$59 billion bill includes \$32.8 billion for the Defense Department for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and \$6.2 billion for State Department programs and foreign aid.

The House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday approved the Housing Preservation and Tenant Protection Act (H.R. 4868), comprehensive affordable housing legislation intended to help stem the loss of affordable rental housing units across the country and prevent the displacement of low-income tenants. [Read more information on the bill on the Committee website.](#)

A related measure, the Public Housing Reinvestment and Tenant Protection Act (H.R. 5814), introduced by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) also passed the Committee on Wednesday. The bill is intended to preserve and revitalize the nation's public housing. [More information on this bill is also available on the Committee website.](#)

The House of Representatives will finish its business today and begin its August recess. The Senate will return on Monday for one more week to vote on the Elena Kagan Supreme Court nomination and will

take a procedural vote on a \$26.1 billion measure to provide education jobs funding and Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) aid to states. The measure (H.R. 1586) — officially a substitute amendment to a House-passed Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization — would provide \$10 billion in education funding and \$16.1 billion in additional federal aid included in the 2009 stimulus law that puts the federal government on the hook for more of Medicaid's costs. Additional Medicaid funding has previously appeared in several versions of a tax extenders measure but was stripped out. Meanwhile, the education funding was added to a House-passed version of the supplemental by House Appropriations Chairman David Obey but the final version was cleared without the provisions.

From Wider Opportunities for Women