

THE FAILED REPUBLICAN RECORD: EDUCATION

REPUBLICANS ATTEMPTED TO ELIMINATE THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

When Congressional Republicans assumed power in 1995, one of their primary goals was to abolish the U.S. Department of Education. Congressional Republicans felt so strongly about slashing federal education funding that they shut down the Federal government in an attempt to get their way.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FOUGHT FOR LESS EDUCATION FUNDING

Had House Republicans prevailed between 1995 and 2004, America would be investing \$20 billion LESS in America's public schools and in higher education than was actually appropriated. Congressional Republican education cuts forced President Clinton to issue six veto threats between 1995 and 2001 against the Republican Labor-Health and Human Services-Education [LHHS] funding bills.

UNDER BUSH-CHENEY, NEW EDUCATION INVESTMENTS FALL

Education funding increases will have dropped from \$7.7 billion (18.2 percent) in fiscal year 2002 to \$1.7 billion (3.0 percent) under the Bush-Cheney 2005 budget – the smallest education funding increase in nearly a decade. Moreover, the Bush-Cheney 2006 budget plan would cut education \$1.5 billion *below* the President's 2005 request.

BUSH-CHENEY AND REPUBLICANS UNDERFUND NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Under President Bush and the Congressional Republican leadership, America's public schools will have received a cumulative total of \$27 billion LESS than they were promised under NCLB. Within weeks of signing the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), President Bush reneged on his promise to provide substantial new resources to the nation's schools to implement NCLB's new accountability requirements. The President's 2002 budget included such a small NCLB increase (2.4 percent) that even Congressional Republicans were reluctant to support the President's education budget. For 2003, the Bush-Cheney Administration even proposed to *cut* No Child Left Behind programs by \$90 million and, for 2004, the Administration proposed an even deeper \$1.2 billion cut. For 2005, Congressional Republicans propose in the LHHS bill to provide \$9.5 billion *less* than authorized for NCLB and to *cut* the Administration's already inadequate NCLB request by another \$120 million.

BUSH-CHENEY AND REPUBLICANS SHORTCHANGE TITLE I

Had House Republicans prevailed, \$3.4 billion *less* would have been spent on the education of the poorest children in America than was actually appropriated between 1995 and 2004, and 1 million low-income children would have been eliminated from the Title 1 program. Congressional Democrats successfully reversed these cuts and provided a \$1.6 billion (18 percent) increase in 2002 for Title 1 – the largest increase in history.

BUSH-CHENEY BUDGETS WOULD HAVE CUT NEW TITLE I INVESTMENTS IN HALF

Had Congress passed the Bush-Cheney education budgets for 2002, 2003 and 2004, actual increases in Title 1 funding would have been cut nearly in half, and America's schools would be receiving \$1.6 billion LESS in Title 1 funding than actually appropriated. Under the Bush-Cheney 2004 budget, half of all school districts in America received cuts in their Title 1 allocations. Under the Bush-Cheney 2005 budget, Title 1 funding – the engine driving NCLB reforms – will fall \$7.2 billion short of the NCLB authorization.

BUSH-CHENEY SOUGHT TO SLASH AFTER-SCHOOL CENTER FUNDING

Although working families want more after-school opportunities for their children, the Bush-Cheney Administration proposes to freeze after-school funding at \$999 million in 2005, half the \$2.0 billion authorized in NCLB. Moreover, the Bush-Cheney 2004 budget sought to slash after-school funding by \$400 million (40 percent) – a devastating cut that would have denied after-school learning opportunities for 500,000 disadvantaged children. The Administration’s proposal failed after a firestorm of opposition.

CONGRESSIONAL REPUBLICANS BREAK THEIR PROMISE ON SPECIAL EDUCATION

By accepting President Bush’s refusal to fully fund special education, Congressional Republicans broke their own promises in the Republican-IDEA reauthorization bill (H.R. 1350) to put special education on a glide path to full funding. Last year, Republicans fell \$1 billion short of their promise to provide \$11.1 billion for special education. This year, the 2005 LHHS bill falls \$2.5 billion short of the Republican promise to provide \$13.6 billion for special education. In fact, if House Republicans had had their way, \$3.1 billion *less* would have been spent on the education of children with disabilities than was actually appropriated between 1995 and 2004.

BUSH-CHENEY UNDERFUND PELL GRANTS COLLEGE AID

The Bush-Cheney Administration has proposed to freeze or cut the maximum Pell Grant for three years in a row and attempted to *eliminate* Pell Grants for 95,000 students. Similarly, Congressional Republicans would freeze the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,050 in their 2005 LHHS bill, as they did in 2004. In fact, if Congressional Republicans had had their way, the maximum Pell Grant would have been smaller in 5 of the last 10 years than the level forced by Democrats. Meanwhile, students at 4-year public colleges are paying nearly \$1,000 more, on average, in tuition and fees than in 2001 and the buying power of Pell Grants will drop to about 34 percent of typical college costs in 2005, half the share Pell Grants paid in 1976.

BUSH-CHENEY PROPOSED TO ELIMINATE NEARLY 50 EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The Administration has proposed to eliminate nearly 50 education programs – including school renovation, rural education, civic education, mentoring, gifted and talented education, arts education, school counselors, and drop out prevention initiatives – and to cut many other education priorities, including after-school centers for disadvantaged children and college aid for low-income students.

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