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SENATE

{ REPORT  
109-103

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION BILL, 2006

JULY 14, 2005.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Appropriations,  
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3010]

The Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, reports the same to the Senate with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

*Amount of budget authority*

Total of bill as reported to the Senate .....	\$604,436,313,000
Amount of 2005 appropriations .....	501,344,991,000
Amount of 2006 budget estimate .....	600,212,625,000
Amount of House allowance .....	601,592,573,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2005 appropriations .....	+ 103,091,322,000
2006 budget estimate .....	+ 4,223,688,000
House allowance .....	+ 2,843,740,000

*Health Education and Training Centers*

The Committee provides \$3,819,000 for the Health Education and Training Centers program. The fiscal year 2005 comparable level was \$3,819,000 and the administration did not request any funds for this program in fiscal year 2006. These centers provide training to improve the supply, distribution, and quality of personnel providing health services in the State of Florida or along the border between the United States and Mexico and in other urban and rural areas with populations with serious unmet health care needs.

*Allied Health and Other Disciplines*

The Committee provides \$11,753,000 for the Allied Health and Other Disciplines programs. The fiscal year 2005 comparable level was \$11,753,000 and the administration did not request any funds for this program in fiscal year 2006. The Committee intends that these funds be used to support existing programs at not less than last year's level. These programs seek to improve access, diversity, and distribution of allied health practitioners to areas of need. The program improves access to comprehensive and culturally competent health care services for underserved populations.

The Committee is concerned about the emerging shortage of occupational therapists needed to work with baby boom retirees and encourages HRSA to give priority consideration to projects for schools that address these manpower shortages by both training faculty and students for entry level service.

The Committee is aware that dental disease disproportionately affects our Nation's most vulnerable populations, including many in rural America. New ways of bringing oral health care to rural and underserved populations are needed. The Committee encourages HRSA to explore alternative methods of delivering preventive and restorative oral health services in rural America. Specifically, the Committee encourages HRSA to explore development of an advanced dental hygiene practitioner who would be a graduate of an accredited dental hygiene program and complete an advanced educational curriculum, which prepares the dental hygienist to provide diagnostic, preventive, restorative and therapeutic services directly to the public in rural and underserved areas.

The Committee notes that since 1999 HRSA has not provided a focus, through a request for proposals or other program initiatives, on pediatric occupational therapy. In view of the importance of this health profession to children with disabilities, the Committee encourages HRSA to identify a competitive category specifically for pediatric occupational therapy training grants in 2006.

*Geriatric Education Centers and Training*

The Committee provides \$29,548,000 for the Geriatrics Education Centers and Training programs. The fiscal year 2005 comparable level was \$31,548,000 and the administration did not request any funds for this program in fiscal year 2006. This program supports grants to health professions schools to establish geriatric education centers and to support geriatric training projects. These centers and geriatric training programs play a vital role in enhancing the