

committed \$6.3 billion to help educate students with these needs. In the House bill, that number now exceeds \$7.7 billion, an increase of well over 20 percent.

This is a double victory. It provides much higher quality education for children with special needs, and it frees up resources in local school districts around the country to do many other things: to help reduce class sizes for children who are not in special education, to free up money for school construction, for teacher quality, or for tax relief.

We need to do more of this, and we need to do it for the reasons my friend, the gentleman from Indiana, just cited: State budgets around this Nation are feeling and will profoundly feel the effects of the economic slowdown. That will mean substantially lower State resources for education. Now more than ever it is important for us to step in and help fill that void. This legislation does so.

As we proceed with the House-Senate conference on the education reform bill, we strongly support making major quality upgrades and reforms in education, but we only want to do so if the resources are there to pay for the needs of children who are identified as having trouble.

This bill is an example of what we need to do on a permanent and ongoing basis to make sure that once we have identified children with problems, we give them the tools and the teachers with whom they can overcome those problems.

For the bipartisan leadership on this bill, I extend my thanks and appreciation, urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do want to make one additional comment. That is that thanks to the leadership of the Speaker and the minority leader and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), I think for the first time the Senate and the House subcommittee had an identical allocation. That is going to make it much easier in conference because we are working from the same total.

I commend them for giving us that kind of support, and also for increasing the allocation generally, because we will only in conference be dealing with priorities, but we will all be working from the same total number.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this motion to instruct conferees to accept the higher funding levels for education that are included in the House bill. Chairman REGULA and Ranking Member OBEY have shown tremendous leadership on our Subcommittee, and they have negotiated a strong bill that reflects the value our country places on education.

We started this budget cycle in a much different place. In order to make room for his

huge tax cut, President Bush's budget proposed the smallest increase for education in 5 years.

The \$2.4 billion increase in the Bush budget included substantial increases for reading programs and a modest increase for Pell grants, but left only \$400 million for all other education programs. This proposal left all other elementary, secondary, and higher education programs, special education, and vocational education programs with less than the level needed just to keep up with inflation.

Members of both sides of the aisle recognized that this was unacceptable, and the bill we negotiated included an increase of \$4.7 billion over the request and \$7 billion over last year. These increases include an additional \$1.7 billion for disadvantaged schools, the largest dollar increase for title 1 since its inception of the program, a \$154 million increase for after school child care, and a \$240 million increase for bilingual education.

We can never forget that our strength as a nation is measured both in our military might and in the well being of our people. There is no more important priority than educating our children and passing our knowledge and values to the next generation. I urge my colleagues to these funding increases and vote yes on the motion to instruct.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PERMISSION TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001, TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that managers on the part of the House have until midnight, November 9, 2001, to file a conference report on the bill (H.R. 2500) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I understand this is a request to file the CJ by midnight tonight?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentleman, it is tomorrow night.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001, TO FILE CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2330, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002, AND TO CONSIDER CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that managers on the part of the House have until midnight Friday night, November 9, 2001, to file a conference report to accompany H.R. 2330; that it be in order at any time on the legislative day of Tuesday, November 13, 2001, to consider such conference report; that all points of order against such conference report and against its consideration be waived; and that such conference report be considered as read when called up.

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

There was no objection.

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APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2944, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2944) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with a Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and agree to the conference asked by the Senate.

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

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT OFFERED BY MR. FATTAH
Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct conferees.