

**CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON
OF CALIFORNIA**

LEGISLATIVE ISSUE PACKET: EDUCATION

(prepared by DC staff)

Updated January 2012

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON

EDUCATION RECORD AND OVERVIEW

Education is the cornerstone to building America's future. Congresswoman Richardson is committed to our nation's education system and is working to improve our schools, fully fund special education, increase access to higher education and modernize our classrooms. At the same time, it is important to work toward reducing class size and making sure that our teachers are qualified, trained, and paid appropriately. During her tenure in Congress, Representative Richardson has been a strong voice on behalf of both teachers and students.

2009

On May 14th 2009, the House passed the **21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act, H.R. 2187**, which makes critical investments to modernize, upgrade and repair school facilities across the country – creating healthier, safer, and more energy-efficient learning environments. The bill improves education, create jobs, and encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources in our schools. ***CLR supported this legislation.***

On March 31st 2009, the House passed **the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, H.R. 1388** - legislation that launches a new era of service that will give Americans of all ages an opportunity to invest through service in our nation's recovery. This bill was signed into law by President Obama on April 21st, 2009. ***CLR supported this legislation.***

- Established the Summer of Service program that engages middle and high school students in volunteer activities in their communities and allows them to earn a \$500 education award to be used for college costs. Students are eligible to participate in two terms of service and earn up to a total of \$1,000.
- Established Youth Engagement Zones, a new service-learning program to engage low-income high school students and out-of-school youth in volunteer efforts that address challenges in their local communities. The program will encourage partnerships between community-based organizations and schools in high-need communities and apply real world activities to teach students about a certain topic. For example, volunteering in a homeless shelter could supplement a class about poverty.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009, makes investments to modernize our schools, help the

states avoid teacher layoffs and other education cutbacks, and make college more affordable. ***CLR supported this legislation.***

- Established a \$53.6 billion State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, which has three components:
 - \$39.5 billion that goes to local school districts using existing funding formulas, which can be used to restore state education cuts; prevent teacher layoffs; prevent other education cutbacks; modernize, renovate, and repair public schools; and for other purposes;
 - \$5 billion in incentive and innovation grants to be distributed by the Secretary of Education on a competitive basis to states and local school districts for progress achieved on key education reform and student achievement objectives; and
 - \$8.8 billion to states for high-priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education, including modernization, renovation and repair of public school and higher education facilities.
- Also included school modernization bond provisions. These provisions create a new category of tax credit bonds for the construction, rehabilitation, or repair of public school facilities or for the acquisition of land on which a public school facility will be constructed. There is a limitation on the amount of qualified school modernization bonds that may be issued of \$25 billion.
- Improved current higher education tax credits, by creating a new “American Opportunity” tax credit with a maximum of \$2,500 rather than the current maximum of \$1,800 -- thereby making college more affordable for millions of low- and moderate-income students.
- Made college more affordable for approximately 7 million students by increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$500, for a maximum of \$5,350 in 2009 and \$5,550 in 2010, and also backfilling the program’s funding shortfall.
- Added \$200 million to the vital Work-Study program that supports undergraduate and graduate students who work while attending college. The increased funding will allow an additional 133,000 students to participate.
- Provided \$2.1 billion for Head Start, which provides comprehensive development services to low-income preschool children – thereby providing services for 110,000 additional children. The \$2.1 billion in additional funds includes \$1.1 billion for the vital Early Head Start infant and toddler program. These investments will create 50,000 new jobs, increasing the demand for early educators, transportation providers, nutrition providers, etc
- Provided \$2 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant to provide child care services to an additional 300,000 children in low-income families while their parents go to work.
- Provided \$13 billion for Title I grants to help disadvantaged kids reach high academic standards – ensuring that in this period of tight state and local budgets these vital services are maintained.
- Provided \$12.2 billion for grants for IDEA (Special Education) to increase the federal share of these costs, and ensure adequate resources for these mandatory services.

- Provided \$650 million for Education Technology, in order to invest in 21st century classrooms, including funding computer labs and training teachers to use technology.
- Provided \$300 million for improving teacher quality, including \$200 million for competitive grants to school districts and states to provide performance pay for teachers and principals who raise student achievement and close the achievement gaps in high-need schools and \$100 million for competitive grants to states to address teacher shortages and modernize the teaching workforce.

On Dec. 16, 2009, the House passed **the Jobs for Main Street Act**. The legislation used existing available funds from the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) to pay for targeted investments in infrastructure and emergency aid to state and local governments to hire teachers, police officers and other vital personnel. The bill provided \$23 billion to save an estimated 250,000 education jobs. It also provided \$300 million to support the College Work Study program, which supports low- and moderate-income undergraduate and graduate students who work while attending college; \$500 million for summer youth employment programs. **CLR supported this legislation.**

2010

The Keeping All Students Safe Act (H.R. 4247) passed by a vote of 262 to 153. A U.S. Government Accountability Office report released last spring exposed hundreds of alleged cases of schoolchildren being abused as a result of inappropriate uses of restraint and seclusion, often involving untrained staff. The victims were children as young as three and four, students with disabilities and without disabilities, who attended both public and private schools. In a number of cases, children died. **CLR supported this legislation.**

- The Keeping All Students Safe Act would establish, for the first time, minimum federal standards to provide equal protections to all students, in every state across the country. It would make clear that physical restraint or locked seclusion should be used only when there is imminent danger of injury and only when imposed by trained staff. It would prohibit mechanical restraints, such as strapping children to chairs, misusing therapeutic equipment to punish students or duct-taping parts of their bodies and any restraint that restricts breathing.

The House passed the bill, **the Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act**, by a vote of 220 to 211. The legislation makes the single largest investment in federal student aid in U.S. history, and delivers on many of President Obama's key education initiatives. This legislation would eliminate unwarranted subsidies to banks in the federal student loan programs, and instead originate all loans directly through the government. **CLR supported this legislation.**

- Make college more affordable for millions of students by investing a total of \$36 billion into the Pell Grant program over 10 years, including \$22.6 billion to increase the maximum Pell Grant award to keep up with inflation;
- Protect students' Pell Grant scholarships from the upcoming budget shortfall by investing \$13.5 billion of those funds to help close the shortfall, caused by increased demand for the scholarship. Without this investment, 8 million students could see

their Pell Grants cut by 60 percent next year and 600,000 students could lose their scholarships completely, according to the U.S. Department of Education;

- Invest \$2.55 billion in Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions to help boost college retention and graduation of minority students;
- Make federal student loans more manageable to repay by strengthening an Income-Based Repayment program that currently allows borrowers to cap their monthly federal student loan payments at just 15 percent of their discretionary income. These new provisions would lower this monthly cap to just 10 percent for new borrowers after 2014;

By a vote of 247 to 161, the House passed **H.R. 1586, the Education Jobs and Medicaid Assistance Act**. The legislation includes \$10 billion to save teacher jobs and \$16.1 billion in health assistance to the states. The funding will also keep police officers and firefighters on the job, at no cost to taxpayers. ***CLR supported this legislation.***

- According to estimates from the Department of Education, the \$10 billion in education funding will save 161,000 teacher jobs. And the Economic Policy Institute estimates the Medicaid funds will save and create 158,000 jobs, including preventing the layoff of police officers and firefighters. Under the bill, California will receive an estimated \$1.8 billion in Medi-Cal assistance and \$1.2 billion in emergency education funding. It is estimated that 16,500 California teacher jobs would be saved by this funding.

By a vote of 264 to 157, the House passed **S. 3307, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act**, bipartisan legislation that the Senate unanimously approved. The legislation dramatically improves the quality of meals children eat in school and in child care, increases the number of healthy meals available to needy children and provides the first real increase in the Federal reimbursement rate for school lunches in more than 30 years. The legislation also eliminates junk food from schools by requiring schools, for the first time, to apply nutritional standards to food served outside the cafeteria. ***CLR supported this legislation.***

- The legislation will connect approximately 115,000 new students to the school meals programs by using Medicaid data to directly certify eligible children. It will also streamline the program and eliminate wasteful paperwork by enhancing universal meal access for eligible children in high poverty communities by using census data to determine school wide income eligibility.
- The legislation improves and strengthens federal child nutrition programs, including the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, school breakfast, school lunch, after school and summer meals and meals served in childcare settings. It would also ensure more children are able to eat local, healthy produce by helping communities establish farm to school networks, create school gardens and use more local foods.

By a vote of 314 to 20, **H.R. 6547, The Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act**, passed with significant bipartisan support. The legislation would, for the first time on a federal level, require public schools to conduct comprehensive

background checks for any employee using state criminal and child abuse registries and the FBI's fingerprint database. It would also prohibit from hiring or retaining anyone who has been convicted of certain violent crimes, including crimes against children, crimes involving rape or sexual assault, and child pornography. ***CLR supported this legislation.***

H.R. 5281, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. The DREAM Act offers a path forward for young people raised and educated here, but left in legal limbo through no fault of their own. The parents of these young men and women came to our shores in search of a better life for themselves and their children; like previous generations of immigrants, they simply strive to take part in the American Dream. The bill offers young immigrants the chance to attain citizenship and contribute to our country's future by pursuing a college education or serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. ***CLR supported this legislation.***

2011

H.R. 1, the Republican Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government through the remainder of the fiscal year. The massive cut to the Head Start program would remove 218,000 low income children and families and close more than 16,000 Head Start and Early Head Start classrooms across the country. It would leave 55,000 teachers, teacher assistants and related staff without jobs. ***CLR did not support this legislation.***

- The cut to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act would mean 2,400 schools that serve nearly one million disadvantaged students would lose funding for teachers, tutors and afterschool programs. Nearly 10,000 teachers and aides could lose their jobs. Reducing the funding for IDEA would mean approximately 7,000 special education teachers and staff would lose their jobs.
- The Pell Grant scholarship maximum award would be reduced by \$845 from \$5,550 to \$4,705. Many of the 9.4 million students who are projected to receive a Pell Grant in the 2011-2012 school year would see a lower grant award, requiring them to take out more loans to afford their college tuition and fees.

H.R. 2218, the Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act helps modernize the charter school model by ensuring better accountability, more options for English Language Learners and students with disabilities and more sharing of best practices both among charter schools and within a school district. ***CLR did not support this legislation.***

- H.R. 2218 expands the types of applicants for the grant to include the school district, a state charter school board, or the Governor. Permitting Governors to receive direct grants from the federal government is problematic, as Governors' offices are not set up to monitor schools or hold authorizers accountable.
- Current charter school regulations in California do not provide sufficient oversight to ensure all charter schools remain financially and academically sound or meet the legislature's original intent – to serve as institutions that foster innovation leading to improved student outcomes.

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON

EDUCATION VOTES (CUMULATIVE)

110TH – 112TH CONGRESS

2008-PRESENT

UPDATED: JANUARY 2012

<u>Date</u>	<u>Bill Title</u>	<u>Vote</u>	<u>Outcome</u>
09/23/2011	<u>The Empowering Parents Through Quality Charter Schools Act, H.R. 2218</u>	N	Bill Passed – House (365-54)
05/04/2011	<u>Repealing Funding for School-Based Health Center Construction</u> HR 1214	N	Bill Passed - House (235 - 191)
03/30/2011	<u>School Vouchers for Washington, D.C.</u> HR 471	N	Bill Passed - House (225 - 195)
02/18/2011	<u>Prohibits Funds for the Gainful Employment Rule</u> H Amdt 94	N	Amendment Adopted - House (289 - 136)
12/08/2010	<u>DREAM Act</u> HR 5281	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (216 - 198)
08/10/2010	<u>Aid To States for Medicaid, Teacher Employment, and Other Purposes</u> HR 1586	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (247 - 161)
07/01/2010	<u>Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Supplemental Appropriations</u> HR 4899	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (239 - 182)
03/25/2010	<u>Health Care Reconciliation Act</u> HR 4872	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (220 - 207)

03/21/2010	<u>Health Care Reconciliation Act</u> HR 4872 (makes the single largest investment in federal student aid in U.S. history)	Y	Bill Passed - House (220 - 211)
09/17/2009	<u>Student Aid Program Modifications</u> HR 3221	Y	Bill Passed - House (253 - 171)
03/31/2009	<u>National Volunteer Program Expansion</u> HR 1388	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (275 - 149)
03/18/2009	<u>National Volunteer Program Expansion</u> HR 1388	Y	Bill Passed - House (321 - 105)
02/13/2009	<u>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("Stimulus Bill")</u> HR 1	Y	Conference Report Adopted - House (246 - 183)
01/28/2009	<u>American Recovery and Reinvestment Act ("Stimulus Bill")</u> HR 1	Y	Bill Passed - House (244 - 188)
09/26/2008	<u>Renewable Energy Credits and Other Business and Individual Credits</u> HR 7060	Y	Bill Passed - House (257 - 166)
07/31/2008	<u>Higher Education Act Amendments and Extensions</u> HR 4137	Y	Conference Report Adopted - House (380 - 49)
06/19/2008	<u>GI Bill, Funding for Midwest Flood Cleanup, Extension of Unemployment Benefits, and Other Provisions</u> HR 2642	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (416 - 12)
05/15/2008	<u>G.I. Bill Expansion and Other Domestic Provisions</u> HR 2642	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (256 - 166)
05/01/2008	<u>Student Loan Provision Changes</u> HR 5715	Y	Concurrence Vote Passed - House (388 - 21)
04/17/2008	<u>Student Loan Provision Changes</u> HR 5715	Y	Bill Passed - House (383 - 27)
02/07/2008	<u>Higher Education Act Amendments and Extensions</u> HR 4137	Y	Bill Passed - House (354 - 58)

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON

EDUCATION INTEREST GROUP RATINGS

- **2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) **100** percent in 2010.
- **2009-2010** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the National Association for College Admission Counseling **100** percent in 2009-2010.
- **2009-2010** In 2009-2010 the National Education Association gave Representative Richardson an **A** rating.
- **2009** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the American Association of University Women **89** percent in 2009.
- **2009** In 2009 the National Education Association gave Representative Richardson a grade of **A**.
- **2007-2008** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the American Association of University Women **100** percent in 2007-2008.
- **2007-2008** In 2007-2008 National Education Association gave Representative Richardson a grade of **A**.
- **2007** In 2007 American Association of University Women gave Representative Richardson a grade of **100**.
- **2007** On the votes used to calculate its ratings, the Association For Supervision and Curriculum Development attaches more value to those votes it considers more important. For 2007, the Association For Supervision and Curriculum Development gave Representative Richardson a rating of **100** percent.
- **2007** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the National Association for College Admission Counseling **66** percent in 2007.
- **2007** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the National Association of Elementary School Principals **100** percent in 2007.
- **2007** Representative Richardson supported the interests of the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) **100** percent in 2007.

EDUCATION CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP, 112TH CONGRESS

- CBC Education Task Force
- Biomedical Research Caucus
- Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus
- Congressional Children's Caucus
- Congressional Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education caucus
- Congressional Arts Caucus

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

MINORITY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

1. Early Childhood Education:

High-quality early education is one of the most important opportunities we can give our children. A solid early learning foundation helps children succeed later in school, helps America compete in a global market and gives all Americans an equal opportunity to succeed in life. Today, 70 percent of families with children include two working parents or one unmarried working parent. Working parents need access to good early education and child care for their children to help prepare them for school.

2. Higher Education:

Working to Improve College Affordability & Accessibility: The rising cost of a college education is squeezing millions of students and families who rely on access to an affordable education to compete in the competitive job market and to preserve their quality of life. As the cost of college outstrips middle class Americans' ability to pay, too many students are forced to take on high loan debt burdens and work long hours that interfere with their academic study.

3. K-12 Education:

Democratic and Republican Committee Members are working on a bipartisan reform of the nation's primary federal education law, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) – currently known as No Child Left Behind.

Five decades after *Brown v. Board of Education*, we still do not offer all children the same educational opportunities. In addition to the achievement gap between low-income and minority children and their peers, American students suffer from a second kind of achievement gap when compared globally. Across income and background levels in math and science, our children go from among the top students in the world in the fourth grade to near the bottom by the twelfth grade. We have one of the highest dropout rates in the world. The Committee on Education and the Workforce Democrats are working to close the achievement gap so all children are able to get the skills they need to succeed.

4. Literacy and Adult Education:

More than 40 million adults have basic skills needs or limited proficiency in English that interfere with their ability to participate fully in work, family and community activities. Current funding reaches only 2.8 million of these adults each year and thousands more are on waiting lists.

More than 77 percent of community-based literacy programs currently report waiting lists. Adult education and literacy programs play a key role in the success of other federal programs, including job training and welfare reform. They also help parents support their children's education and ensure that businesses are able to meet their workforce needs.

5. Teacher Issues:

The single most important factor in determining a child's success in school is the quality of his or her teacher. We ask our teachers to perform miracles every day in our under-funded and over-crowded school system. To produce a highly competitive and innovative workforce tomorrow, we must attract the best qualified teachers to our classrooms today.

TOP NATIONAL EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

American Federation of Teachers (www.aft.org)

Represents 1 million teachers, school staff, and other public employees.

National Education Association (www.nea.org)

Nation's oldest and largest teachers union.

Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (HRC)
(www.career.org)

Business group of postsecondary schools, colleges, and universities.

Apollo Group (www.apollogrp.edu)

Lobbies for higher education programs for working adults.

Education Sector (www.educationsector.org)

Elementary education think tank.

National School Boards Association (www.nsba.org)

Group representing school board administrators.

American Council on Education (www.acenet.edu)

Group representing presidents and chancellors of post secondary institutions.

MISSIONS AND GOALS FROM ORGANIZATIONS' WEBSITES

American Federation of Teachers (www.aft.org)

The American Federation of Teachers, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO, was founded in 1916 and today represents 1.5 million members in more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide.

Five divisions within the AFT represent the broad spectrum of the AFT's membership: pre-K through 12th-grade teachers; paraprofessionals and other school-related personnel; higher education faculty and professional staff; federal, state and local government employees; and nurses and other healthcare professionals. In addition, the AFT represents approximately 80,000 early childhood educators and nearly 250,000 retiree members.

The AFT is governed by its elected officers and by delegates to the union's biennial convention, which sets union policy. Elected leaders are Randi Weingarten, president; Lorretta Johnson, secretary-treasurer; Francine Lawrence, executive vice president; and a 43-member executive council.

The mission of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, is to improve the lives of our members and their families; to give voice to their legitimate professional, economic and social aspirations; to strengthen the institutions in which we work; to improve the quality of the services we provide; to bring together all members to assist and support one another; and to promote democracy, human rights and freedom in our union, in our nation and throughout the world.

National Education Association (www.nea.org)

In 1857, one hundred educators answered a national call to unite as one voice in the cause of public education. At the time, learning to read and write was a luxury for most children—and a crime for many Black children. One hundred and fifty years later, public education and the profession of teaching are transformed. In 1966 we joined forces with the American Teachers Association. Since then, our voice has swelled to 3.2 million members, and what was once a privilege for a fortunate few is now an essential right for every American child, regardless of family income or place of residence.

Since its beginning, the National Education Association has been ahead of its time, crusading for the rights of all educators and children. Learn more about NEA's rich history, from welcoming Black members four years before the Civil War and electing a woman as president a full decade before Congress granted women the right to vote, to the 1966 merger with the American Teachers Association during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.

NEA Represents:

Education Support Professionals

More than a half million Education Support Professional (ESP) members take care of our children every day and make sure they have the tools they need to succeed in our schools and classrooms.

Higher Education Faculty & Staff

Today, NEA is the largest college and university faculty and staff organization in the United States, representing more than 200,000 higher education employees in public as well as private institutions nationwide.

NEA-Retired

Our membership today is more than 275,000 and we continue to lead the way in public education and on critical issues including health care and Social Security.

Student Program

As a student member of NEA, you'll have the nation's largest education association (3.2 million members) working to provide you with tools and resources for a successful career.

Substitute Educators

Substitute educators perform a vital function in the maintenance and continuity of daily education.

Administrators

Effective leadership is fundamental to providing a great public school for every student. School administrators perform key functions in the maintenance and development of schools, their faculty and their students.

National Council of Urban Education Associations (NCUEA)

This caucus of NEA local affiliates is dedicated to strengthening member advocacy and making the NEA more responsive to member needs.

We believe individuals are strengthened when they work together for the common good. As education professionals, we improve both our professional status and the quality of public education when we unite and advocate collectively.

NEA also believes every student in America, regardless of family income or place of residence, deserves a quality education. In pursuing its mission, NEA has determined that we will focus the energy and resources of our 3.2 million members on improving the quality of teaching, increasing student achievement and making schools safer, better places to learn.

California Teachers Association (CTA) (cta.org)

Founded in 1863, the California Teachers Association has become one of the strongest advocates for educators in the country. CTA includes teachers, counselors, school librarians, social workers, psychologists, and nurses. These educators in the K-12 school system are joined by community college faculty, California State University faculty, and education support professionals to make CTA the most inclusive and most powerful voice of educators in the state.

The California Teachers Association exists to protect and promote the well-being of its members; to improve the conditions of teaching and learning; to advance the cause of free, universal, and quality public education; to ensure that the human dignity and civil rights of all children and youth are protected; and to secure a more just, equitable, and democratic society.

To fulfill its mission, the California Teachers Association pursues the following goals:

- I. CTA plans and executes programs and strategies designed to enhance the quality of education for students and the professional and personal lives of its members.
- II. CTA assists its local chapters in bargaining for salaries and individual and employment rights in keeping with the academic and professional status of its members.
- III. CTA represents members in governmental relations -- to influence state and federal legislation and actions by state and federal agencies.
- IV. CTA strengthens its role as the preeminent voice for public education in California -- projects a strong, coherent and consistent image -- such that its members play the major role in shaping public policy on education.
- V. CTA represents members in professional and career development matters.
- VI. CTA represents members and provides a program of economic benefits and resources for members.
- VII. CTA works to maintain and expand its membership so as to remain effective in defending and advancing its members' interests.
- VIII. CTA maintains a governance system designed to achieve broad membership involvement and democratic decision-making.
- IX. CTA works to encourage ethnic minority member participation.
- X. CTA works to promote human and civil rights.
- XI. CTA maintains staff, hired in conformance with affirmative action principles, to serve its members.

XII. CTA maintains internal and external communication systems to ascertain its members' priorities, to keep its members informed, and to improve its relations with the public.

XIII. CTA implements NEA policies within California and works to influence the development and content of those policies.

Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities (HRC)

(www.career.org)

The Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities is a voluntary membership organization of accredited, private, postsecondary schools, institutes, colleges and universities that provide career-specific educational programs. APSCU has over 1,800 members that educate and support almost two million students each year for employment in over 200 occupational fields.

APSCU member institutions cover the full gamut of postsecondary education: from short-term certificate and diploma programs, to two- and four-year associate and baccalaureate degrees, to master's and doctoral programs. Some of the occupational fields for which APSCU institutions provide programs include: information technology; allied health; business administration; commercial art; radio and television broadcasting; and culinary and hospitality management.

Most APSCU member institutions participate in federal student financial assistance programs under Title IV of the Higher Education Act. In order to participate, they must be licensed by the state in which they are located, accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body, and approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Many APSCU member schools and colleges also participate in other federal, state and local education and workforce training programs.

In addition, the Imagine America Foundation has provided over \$35 million in scholarships to high school graduates attending APSCU member schools, institutes, colleges and universities. The Foundation recently received the highest award from the American Society of Association Executives for innovative education and training initiatives.

Apollo Group (www.apollogrp.edu)

Apollo Group, Inc. was founded in 1973 in response to a gradual shift in higher education demographics from a student population dominated by youth to one in which approximately half the students are adults and over 80 percent of whom work full-time. Apollo's founder, John Sperling, believed -- and events proved him right -- that lifelong employment with a single employer would be replaced by lifelong learning and employment with a variety of employers. Lifelong learning requires an institution dedicated solely to the education of working adults.

Today, Apollo Group, Inc., through its subsidiaries, University of Phoenix, Apollo Global, College for Financial Planning, and Institute for Professional Development, has

established itself as a leading provider of higher education programs for working adults by focusing on servicing the needs of the working adult.

Education Sector (www.educationsector.org)

Founded in 1918, the American Council on Education (ACE) is the only higher education organization that represents presidents and chancellors of all types of U.S. accredited, degree-granting institutions: community colleges and four-year institutions, private and public universities, and nonprofit and for-profit colleges. ACE represents the interests of more than 1,600 campus executives, as well as 200 leaders of higher education-related associations and organizations. Together, ACE member institutions serve 80 percent of today's college students.

In its role as the major coordinating body for all the nation's higher education institutions, ACE provides leadership on key higher education issues and influences public policy through advocacy, research, and program initiatives. ACE fosters greater collaboration and new partnerships within and outside the higher education community to help colleges and universities anticipate and address the challenges of the 21st century and contribute to a stronger nation and better world.

To support the organization's mission and vision, ACE's leaders have developed a core list of strategic priorities to drive operations. These include:

- Advocating on behalf of key higher education issues
- Increasing the number of adult learners who are college- and career-ready
- Ensuring higher education has diverse, skilled and ample leadership
- Positioning ACE as the most contemporary resource to guide colleges and universities in achieving their strategic goals in international relations
- Working to improve ACE's effectiveness, efficiency, and financial strength

National School Boards Association (www.nsba.org)

The National School Boards Association (NSBA) is a not-for-profit organization representing state associations of school boards and their member districts across the United States. NSBA mission is "working with and through our state associations, to advocate for equity and excellence in public education through school board leadership." NSBA achieves that mission by representing the school board perspective in working with federal government agencies and national organizations that impact education, and provides vital information and services to State Associations of school boards throughout the nation.

NSBA advocates local school boards as the ultimate expression of grassroots democracy. NSBA supports the capacity of each school board, acting on behalf of and in close concert with the people of its community, to envision the future of education in its community, to establish a structure and environment that allow all students to reach

their maximum potential, to provide accountability to the community on performance in the schools, and to serve as the key community advocate for children and youth and their public schools.

Founded in 1940, NSBA represents its State Association members and their more than 90,000 local school board members, virtually all of whom are elected. These local officials govern 13,809 local school districts serving the nation's 50 million public school students.

NSBA policy is determined by a 150-member Delegate Assembly of local school board members who represent their State Associations of school boards. The 25-member Board of Directors translates this policy into action. Programs and services are administered by the NSBA executive director and a 96-person staff. NSBA's office is located in metropolitan Washington, D.C.

American Council on Education (www.acenet.edu)

Education Sector is an independent think tank that challenges conventional thinking in education policy. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to achieving measurable impact in education policy, both by improving existing reform initiatives and by developing new, innovative solutions to our nation's most pressing education problems.

The ultimate beneficiaries of our work are students. Our mission is to promote changes in policy and practice that lead to improved student opportunities and outcomes.

CONGRESSWOMAN LAURA RICHARDSON

SPONSORED AND COSPONSORED EDUCATION BILLS

112TH CONGRESS

Sponsored Bills:

H.R.1128 : Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Preparedness Planning Act

Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 3/16/2011) Cosponsors (10)
Committees: House Transportation and Infrastructure; House Homeland Security; House Energy and Commerce **Latest Major Action:** 3/28/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

This bill empowers school districts in high-risk areas to bolster emergency preparedness training by doing the following:

1. Establishing an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Preparedness Planning Grant Program to award grants to local educational agencies located in areas at risk for terrorist attacks, natural disasters and public health emergencies.
2. Authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (HSC), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to determine which areas are considered high-risk for terrorist attacks, natural disaster and public health threats respectively.

H.R.3748 : America Realizing the Informational Skills and Initiative of New Graduates Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 12/20/2011) Cosponsors (2)
Committees: House Education and the Workforce
Latest Major Action: 12/20/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

This bill:

1. Establishes a grant program with authorized appropriations in the amount of \$100 million to be administered by the Secretary of Labor.
2. Under this two-pronged program the Department of Labor would establish and implement a program that will provide funding to:
 - A. pay salaries for two years for eligible college graduates, i.e., those receiving their first baccalaureate or associate degree from an accredited college or university within the past 24 months, to be hired by:

- (a) small business enterprises or
- (b) larger companies which have operations located in empowerment zones or in areas where the local unemployment rate exceeds the national average by more than two percentage points; and

B. establish a higher education opportunity program pursuant to which recent college graduates, i.e., those receiving their first baccalaureate or associate degree from an accredited college or university within the past 24 months, will be eligible to receive funding to defray the cost of obtaining two years of additional education and training in the STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).

H.R.3749 : Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Richardson, Laura [CA-37] (introduced 12/20/2011) **Cosponsors**

(None) **Committees:** House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 12/20/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

This bill:

1. Lowers the eligibility age for participating in programs funded by the Act from 55 to 52;
2. Eliminates the requirement that the applicant be unemployed so long as applicant does not exceed income limit, which is set at the figure equal to 200 percent of the federal poverty level;
3. Bases eligibility on income of individual applicant rather than income of family household;
4. Prohibits capping the number of hours program participants can work per week at less than 40 hours. Currently, the maximum number of hours program participants can work weekly ranges from 25-35; and

Co-Sponsored Bills:

H.R.458 : High School Athletics Accountability Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [NY-28] (introduced 1/26/2011) **Cosponsors** (52) **Committees:** House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 2/25/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.711 : Youth Corps Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Hirono, Mazie K. [HI-2] (introduced 2/15/2011) **Cosponsors** (23)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

H.R.778 : Graduation Promise Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Hinojosa, Ruben [TX-15] (introduced 2/17/2011) Cosponsors (34)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.820 : Prescribe A Book Act

Sponsor: Rep Payne, Donald M. [NJ-10] (introduced 2/18/2011) Cosponsors (84)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.870 : Humphrey-Hawkins 21st Century Full Employment and Training Act

Sponsor: Rep Conyers, John, Jr. [MI-14] (introduced 3/2/2011) Cosponsors (19)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce; House Ways and Means

Latest Major Action: 3/21/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

H.R.885 : Teaching Geography is Fundamental Act

Sponsor: Rep Van Hollen, Chris [MD-8] (introduced 3/2/2011) Cosponsors (46)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/21/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.906 : Positive Reduction of Incarceration by Maximizing Education Act

Sponsor: Rep Cohen, Steve [TN-9] (introduced 3/3/2011) Cosponsors (11)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/21/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.998 : Student Non-Discrimination Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Polis, Jared [CO-2] (introduced 3/10/2011) Cosponsors (150)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 3/21/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.1057 : FIT Kids Act

Sponsor: Rep Kind, Ron [WI-3] (introduced 3/14/2011) Cosponsors (84)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 4/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.1090 : Full-Service Community Schools Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Hoyer, Steny H. [MD-5] (introduced 3/15/2011) Cosponsors (27)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 4/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.1106 : Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act

Sponsor: Rep Towns, Edolphus [NY-10] (introduced 3/15/2011) Cosponsors (58)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 4/4/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

H.R.1547 : Success in the Middle Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Grijalva, Raul M. [AZ-7] (introduced 4/14/2011) Cosponsors (16)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 5/20/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education

H.R.1648 : Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Sanchez, Linda T. [CA-39] (introduced 4/15/2011) Cosponsors (126)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 5/20/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education..

H.R.1704 : Annual National Classified School Employee of the Year Award Act

Sponsor: Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6] (introduced 5/3/2011) Cosponsors (73)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 5/20/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.1881 : Community College Energy Training Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Lujan, Ben Ray [NM-3] (introduced 5/12/2011) Cosponsors (34)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 9/8/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

H.R.1901 : Saving America's Youth: the Youth Employment Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Rush, Bobby L. [IL-1] (introduced 5/13/2011) Cosponsors (23)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce; House Ways and Means; House Natural Resources; House Oversight and Government Reform

Latest Major Action: 9/8/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

H.R.1903 : 21st Century STEM for Girls and Underrepresented Minorities Act

Sponsor: Rep Woolsey, Lynn C. [CA-6] (introduced 5/13/2011) Cosponsors (24)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 9/8/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.2211 : Great Teaching for Great Schools Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Polis, Jared [CO-2] (introduced 6/16/2011) Cosponsors (6)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 9/8/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.2247 : Innovation Inspiration School Grant Program Act

Sponsor: Rep Ryan, Tim [OH-17] (introduced 6/21/2011) Cosponsors (15)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 9/8/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.2914 : Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act

Sponsor: Rep Schakowsky, Janice D. [IL-9] (introduced 9/14/2011) Cosponsors (49)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce; House Natural Resources; House Agriculture; House Judiciary; House Science, Space, and Technology; House Energy and Commerce

Latest Major Action: 11/18/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

H.R.2948 : Fix America's Schools Today (FAST) Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep DeLauro, Rosa L. [CT-3] (introduced 9/15/2011) Cosponsors (113)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 11/18/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

H.R.3014 : Computer Science Education Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Polis, Jared [CO-2] (introduced 9/22/2011) Cosponsors (7)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 11/18/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.3134 : DIAPER Act

Sponsor: Rep DeLauro, Rosa L. [CT-3] (introduced 10/6/2011) Cosponsors (18)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 11/18/2011 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

H.R.3373 : STEM Education Innovation Act of 2011

Sponsor: Rep Honda, Michael M. [CA-15] (introduced 11/4/2011) Cosponsors (20)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 11/4/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

H.R.3486 : SOS Child Abuse Act

Sponsor: Rep Bass, Karen [CA-33] (introduced 11/18/2011) Cosponsors (18)

Committees: House Education and the Workforce

Latest Major Action: 11/18/2011 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.