



CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN

Dear Friends,



Thank you for reading this report on Congressional action on major education legislation. The 110th Congress has much to be proud of, including the College Cost Reduction Act of 2007, passed by the House on July 11 by a vote of 273-149, which provides the single largest increase in college aid since the 1944 GI bill with no new cost to taxpayers. The House also passed funding, over the amount requested by the Administration, for the woefully under-funded No Child Left Behind Act. More information about these and other education initiatives is included in this newsletter.

I appreciate your allowing me to serve you in Congress and will continue to work to represent you well.

Most sincerely,

Steve Cohen

This mailing was prepared, published, and mailed at taxpayer expense.

Steve Cohen
M.C.
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CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN Working to Improve Education



A Report
on Education
Summer 2007

The Colonial Optional School Efficacious Leaders and Professionals Club of Memphis visits the U.S. Capitol and the Office of Congressman Cohen.

CONGRESSMAN STEVE COHEN



Jeannice Jones, Winner of the 9th District Congressional Art Award contest, poses with her mother, Jeannice Jones and Congressman Cohen. Jeannice's drawing "Mother of Mine" (inset) is on display in the U.S. Capitol.

Education is the cornerstone to building America's future. We need to support America's students and schools at all stages of education. Here are some of the things Congress is doing to achieve that. I welcome your ideas and comments. Please write to me or send me an e-mail through my website, www.cohen.house.gov.

Early Education

Early childhood learning is one of the most important predictors of educational success. H.R. 1429, Improving Head Start Act, which expands and improves the successful Head Start early childhood education program, and includes strong accountability measures to ensure programs are succeeding, passed by a vote of 365-48. The bill will help more children arrive at kindergarten ready to succeed by improving program quality and expanding access to include more children.

K-12 Education

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, signed into law 5 years ago, imposed strong mandates on state governments and local school districts, and set out ambitious funding goals. Nonetheless, the Administration's request fell \$14.7 billion short of the authorized NCLB level for fiscal year 2008. The House passed funding measures to invest \$2 billion more in NCLB programs in 2008, twice the

increase requested by the Administration. The funding, among other achievements, will provide an additional 161,000 low-income children with help in reading and math. NCLB needs to be changed so that teachers are allowed to teach their students rather than teaching to the test.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B Grants

Congress is putting more money into special education. While the Administration's budget proposed to cut IDEA Part B grants by \$291 million, the appropriations bill passed by the House provides a \$509.5 million increase over fiscal year 2007. This investment reverses a two-year decline in the federal contribution toward the rising costs of special education for 6.9 million children with disabilities.

Making College More Affordable

H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction Act, contains several provisions to make college more affordable, including increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$500 by 2011. Between 2001 and 2006, the cost of attending a four-year public college increased by \$3,764 or 42 percent; however, the maximum Pell Grant increased by just \$300. Since January 2006, the House will have raised the maximum Pell Grant by a total of \$650 over two years and will continue raising the maximum through 2011, benefiting over 5 million low- and middle-income students. This would be the first increase to be signed into law since 2003, when the Pell Grant maximum was raised by \$50.

The College Cost Reduction Act also cuts interest rates in half on subsidized college loans, provides tuition assistance for excellent undergraduate students who agree to teach in public schools upon graduating, and increases the limits on federal student loans.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities

I co-sponsored an amendment with Congressman Jim Cooper (D-Nashville) on H.R. 3043, the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, to increase funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) by \$125 million or 40 percent. This additional money will directly benefit HBCUs including Memphis's Le Moyne-Owen College. I am also seeking funding for other higher education institutions in Memphis, including the University of Memphis, UT-Memphis, Rhodes College and Southwest Tennessee Community College.

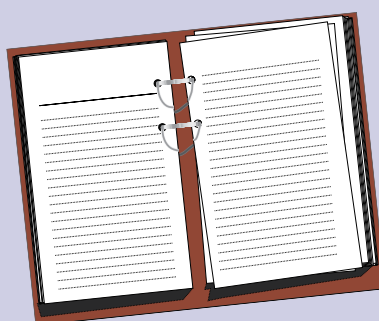
Sunshine in Student Loan Industry

H.R. 890, Student Loan Sunshine Act, addresses corrupt practices and conflicts of interest between colleges and lenders, providing greater transparency and ensuring that students and families will encounter a more trustworthy student aid system.



Congressman Cohen and Senator Lamar Alexander present Judge Odell Horton's family with a copy of the resolution renaming the federal building in downtown Memphis.

On August 24th, the name of the Clifford Davis Federal Building in Memphis was officially changed to the Clifford Davis/Odell Horton Federal Building. House Resolution 753 authorizing the renaming of the Federal Building in Memphis was sponsored by Congressman Cohen and passed in the House of Representatives on March 26. The bill was sponsored by Senator Lamar Alexander in the Senate, where it passed on April 10, and was signed into law on May 2.



Save the Date!

Congressman Cohen will conduct a Town Hall meeting on September 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Goodwill Senior Citizen Center, 163 W. Raines Road.

Minority Vendor Seminar Scheduled for September

Congressman Steve Cohen encourages the participation of District 9 minority vendors in the Minority Procurement Seminar being held in Washington, D.C. on September 27. In an effort to increase the level of participation by minority vendors in contracting opportunities with the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on House Administration is sponsoring a Minority Procurement Seminar on September 27, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. This seminar will provide step-by-step instructions for bidding on contracts with the Small Business Administration, the General Services Administration, and the House of Representatives. Any interested vendor should contact Congressman Cohen's District Office at (901) 544-4131.