

MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)
RE: **Analysis of the U.S. House Budget Plan to Cut Education Funding**
DATE: April 27, 2011

On Friday, April 15th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a budget for the upcoming year on a party line vote. The plan sharply reduces the federal government's investments in education and infrastructure – investments that are necessary to ensure our country remains competitive in the global economy and generates jobs in both the short and long term. It makes huge reductions in spending that are largely offset by completely extending the Bush 2001 and 2003 tax breaks, which were targeted towards the very wealthy.

Two-thirds of cuts in the budget plan come from programs for lower-income American families and children. The House fiscal year 2012 budget cuts more than \$13 billion or 15 percent below current levels for federal spending on education, training and social services.

This budget proposal is an unprecedented assault on middle class Americans who are already struggling to make ends meet. What is particularly egregious is the devastating impact these cuts would have on Iowa students for whom education is a critical stepping stone. There is no question that the time has come for tough budget decisions, but the smart way to bring down the deficit is for Congress to pursue a balanced approach of major spending cuts and necessary revenue increases, while continuing to make investments in education.\

The measure now comes to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

My full statement on the House budget proposal can be found [here](#).

Below are some specific cuts Iowa could face in federal support for education if the House budget sets the priorities for federal spending in fiscal year 2012.

Title I Grants:

Title I education funding could be cut by \$2.1 billion nationally, meaning 7,500 schools serving 3.1 million disadvantaged students could lose funding, and approximately 30,000 teachers and aides could lose their jobs.

- **Estimated Impact on Iowa: our state could see a cut of more than \$12 million in grants to local educational agencies. Iowa schools are expected to receive \$77 million in Title I grant funds for the 2011-2012 school year. Under the U.S. House budget proposal for fiscal year 2012, Iowa schools could receive roughly \$65 million for the 2012-2013 school year.**

Special Education:

The U.S. House budget could result in a significant reduction of \$1.7 billion in federal special education funding. This reduction could lead to the loss of 21,000 education staff serving such students.

- **Estimated Impact on Iowa: Lost jobs and potentially higher state and local taxes to make up for the loss of more than \$18 million in federal funds to support special education.**

21st Century Community Learning Centers:

The U.S. House budget could force a reduction of \$175 million from programs that provide extended learning opportunities for elementary and secondary education students and offer a safe and productive place for such students when parents are still at work. This reduction could result in the loss of these opportunities for more than 175,000 students across the United States.

- **Estimated Impact on Iowa: More than \$900,000 less in funding under this program, resulting in 900 fewer students having safe and productive learning environments in the afternoon or during the summer months.**

Rather than a pessimistic budget, which says America can't afford to maintain and rebuild the middle class, I believe we need a budget that creates a better future – one that creates jobs, keeps our promises to seniors, educates our children, and reduces the deficit with smart spending cuts and by asking millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share.