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DEMOCRATIC PACKAGE
AMENDMENT TO THE WORKFORCE/CAREERS ACT

This series of amendments constructs an alternative approach to issues which, if left unaddressed, will erect an unfortunate stumbling block and prevent our support for this legislation. These issues were raised during consideration at the respective Senate and House committees as well as on the floor of the two bodies. These issues were also raised during staff negotiations and now once again in the formal Conference meetings.

On May 20th, the President sent the Conferees a letter reiterating his concerns about these issues. On June 5th, Chief of Staff Panetta met with the Chairs and Ranking Members to once again underscore the serious nature of the President’s letter and to seek an agreement. On Monday, June 17th, the Administration and Democratic leadership staff presented their counterparts from the Republican leadership staff with an offer which represented their best possible offer. No response, either positive or negative, has been forthcoming from the Republican staff.

Today’s series of amendments represent the corresponding legislative changes needed to implement the proposals put forward in the June 17th meeting. This package includes the following:

1. Authorization level: Accept the such sums authorization with the following trigger for the flex account:
   - Funds appropriated under the Act would be subject to the following percent splits: 45% for adult training; 28% for in-school youth; 20% for at-risk youth; and 7% for adult education.
   - No funds would go to a FLEX account until the level of funding for the States reached the FY 1996 appropriations level for the total federal grants to the States for programs consolidated in this legislation.
   - All funds above FY 1996 appropriation level would be available for FLEX account until 125% of FY 1996 level is reached.
   - The amount in excess of 125% would be allocated as follows: 25% FLEX account; 35% adult training; 15% out-of-school youth; 20% in-school youth; and 5% adult education with a hold harmless from the flex account.

2. Dislocated Workers: Provide for the continuation of support and opportunity for our dislocated workers. Require the expenditure levels to meet the President’s FY 1997 budget request for dislocated workers. This $1.3 billion of targeted funds would come from the Employment and Training account and the FLEX account. The Secretaries will decide the relative shares of the $1.3 billion for each State.
   - Skill Grants: Require the establishment of a Dislocated Worker Skill Grant program. These Skill Grants will be available to those dislocated workers who are unable to receive satisfactory training or placement through the available One-Stop core services.
   - Phase-In Period: The offer also extends the phase-in of the program from three years to five years.
3. School-to-Work Program: The amendment would reduce the life of the program by moving the sunset date forward to the year 2000. The amendment would also strike the repeal of the School-to-Work program.

4. Accountability: This amendment would provide the Secretaries authority to review and approve the submitted state plan. It would also allow for negotiations to take place between the states and Secretaries concerning the state established performance benchmarks. These negotiations would be to establish the appropriate challenging levels of performance standards on which to measure for incentives, sanctions and general performance.
   o Uniform technical definitions would also be established to create a common dialogue and performance measure.

5. Education: Governance - The Senate reported education governance language is replicated here since this was originally acceptable to the education community. There have been some negotiations between the education community, state legislatures and National Governor’s Association office but we offer the original governance language as it passed the Senate in October, 1995.
   o Vocational Education In-State Distribution Formula: In addition this amendment includes a provision which requests that the House recede on the issue of an in-state formula distribution of vocational education funds with an amendment. The amendment would establish an 80% poverty/20% population in-state distribution formula. The 80% weight would be based on the number of poor children ages 5-17. The 20% weight would be based on the overall number of students and adults enrolled in the respective programs under the jurisdiction of the local educational agency.

6. At-Risk Youth: Summer Jobs - Modify the Senate language to clearly require a Summer Youth Program in each local area.
   o At-Risk Youth: In-State distribution - Establish an At-Risk Youth sub-state allocation based on the number of disadvantaged youth and the general population of youth in the local workforce area. In addition each workforce area will be provided a hold-harmless of a plus or minus 2 percent based on the distribution of At-Risk youth funds.

7. Adult Education: Establish a hold-harmless for the Adult Education block grant based on the FY 1995 level of funding. Additional funds to meet this requirement must come from the FLEX Account.

8. Local Boards: Establish the authority and control of the local boards and local elected officials in relation to the budget and structure of the delivery and oversight of services at the local level and through the One-Stop.