



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
1156 15TH STREET, NW SUITE 915 · WASHINGTON, DC 20005 · P (202) 463-2940 · F (202) 463-2953
E-MAIL: WASHINGTONBUREAU@NAACPNET.ORG · WEB ADDRESS WWW.NAACP.ORG

URGENT ACTION ALERT

DATE: June 1, 2010
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP URGES CONGRESS TO PASS SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL TO SAVE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS JOBS WHILE PREVENTING SHORTFALL IN MUCH NEEDED COLLEGE PELL GRANT PROGRAM, HAITIAN RELIEF AND GULF OIL SPILL ASSISTANCE

SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BILL, TO BE CONSIDERED BY CONGRESS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, MUST CONTAIN CRUCIAL FUNDS FOR ESSENTIAL AMERICAN PROGRAMS .

THE ISSUE:

In the next few days Congress is scheduled to consider a supplemental spending bill for 2010. A supplemental spending bill is an almost annual legislative occurrence which pays for unexpected expenses which may arise after the annual appropriations cycle (which is meant to be completed by October), including natural disasters, unexpected economic downturns, or wars.

This year the supplemental spending bill is perhaps more vital than before: at risk are more than 100,000 teachers' jobs nationwide, an estimated 5,525 law enforcement officers, and an untold number of firefighters all of whom were hired with federal stimulus dollars. These jobs, and the services they provide, are at risk as states and local municipalities struggle to make ends meet as the economy has not recovered as quickly as had been originally hoped. As drafted by House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (WI), the supplemental appropriations bill contains just over \$24 billion in federal assistance to states and local governments to keep the teachers, police officers and firefighters doing their jobs, and helping their communities, for up to 3 years.

As proposed the Supplemental spending bill would also provide \$5.667 billion to meet the current shortfall, which was unanticipated last year, in the Pell Grant Program, which benefited more than 8 million college students this year; more than \$13 billion for the payment of benefits to Vietnam veterans and survivors for exposure to Agent Orange, the full effects of which we are just beginning to understand. This funding will result in an estimated 86,069 people becoming eligible to receive retroactive payments and 67,259 people becoming eligible to receive new benefits; monies to assist in the on-going efforts to help the nation of Haiti, which was devastated by a horrible earthquake earlier this year; and \$224 million to help mitigate some of the current problems resulting from the Gulf Coast oil spill. This includes: \$83 million for unemployment assistance related to the oil spill and an oil spill relief employment program; \$14 million to respond to economic impacts on fishermen; \$10 million for Justice legal activities; and \$5 million for economic recovery planning. The bill also requires that all costs directly related to the Gulf Coast oil spill must be reimbursed to the federal government by the responsible parties.

[More...](#)

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your Representative and both your Senators **and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT FUNDING FOR TEACHERS, POLICE OFFICERS, PELL GRANTS, VETERANS AND DISASTER RELIEF IN HAITI AND THE GULF COAST.** To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

No time to
send a
letter!
Call, fax
or
e-mail
TODAY!

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses. To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on "*Write Your Representative*" (on the left hand side, just under "find your Representative"). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- Due to the slower than expected pace of the economic recovery, states and local governments from coast to coast are being faced with budget deficits, and as a result are cutting basic services including education and public safety.
- If the federal government does not act swiftly to provide the states with these much needed funds, as many as 100,000 teachers, and more than 5,500 police officers, as well as countless firefighters will lose their jobs.
- The federal government has an obligation to its citizens to include funding for teachers, police officers and firefighters in the supplemental appropriations bill now making its way through Congress, as well as make up the shortfall in Pell Grants; provide help to Vietnam era war casualties of Agent Orange; and provide disaster assistance to the people of Haiti as well as Gulf Coast residents affected by the oil spill.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION OF FUNDING FOR TEACHERS, POLICE OFFICERS, FIREFIGHTERS, PELL GRANTS, VIETNAM VETERANS AND DISASTER VICTIMS IN HAITI AND THE GULF COAST IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING LEGISLATION

Dear Senator / Representative _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support the inclusion of funding necessary to keep teachers, firefighters and law enforcement personnel on the job; provide much-needed assistance to Vietnam veterans and survivors exposed to Agent Orange; to make up for the unanticipated shortfall in PELL grants for college students; to assist in the continuing Haitian relief efforts; and to help the states most affected by the Gulf Coast oil spill in the fiscal year 2010 supplemental appropriations bill. I understand that this bill will be considered by Congress in the very near future.

It is clear that as states and local municipalities continue to grapple with the on-going effects of the recession that the federal government must continue to provide assistance to meet basic needs. That is why I strongly support the inclusion of \$24.679 billion in the legislation to help retain education jobs, police jobs and firefighter jobs. Furthermore, I strongly support the inclusion of \$5.667 billion to meet the current year shortfall, which was unanticipated last year, in the Pell Grant Program, which benefited more than 8 million students this year. I also support the inclusion of \$13.377 billion in mandatory appropriations for the payment of benefits to Vietnam veterans and survivors for exposure to Agent Orange, the full effects of which we are just beginning to understand. This funding will result in an estimated 86,069 people becoming eligible to receive retroactive payments and 67,259 people becoming eligible to receive new benefits. I also support the inclusion of monies to assist in the on-going efforts to help the nation of Haiti, which was devastated by a horrible earthquake earlier this year.

Finally, I support the inclusion of \$224 million to help mitigate some of the current problems resulting from the Gulf Coast oil spill. This includes: \$83 million for unemployment assistance related to the oil spill and an oil spill relief employment program; \$14 million to respond to economic impacts on fishermen; \$10 million for Justice legal activities; and \$5 million for economic recovery planning. I am also very supportive of language in the legislation requiring that all costs directly related to the Gulf Coast oil spill must be reimbursed by the responsible parties.

Please do all you can to ensure that we as a nation stay on course for our economic recovery, while continuing to provide basic services to all our citizens. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact your
Representative and BOTH
your Senators.*