

education for students with disabilities. It cuts Head Start funding for the first time in 20 years. It slashes the Even Start family literacy program in half. It leaves Pell Grants frozen in place for the fourth year in a row, even as college costs are soaring.

It cuts job training, even as the number of good jobs is shrinking. At a time when hundreds of thousands of workers continue to struggle to find work in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and almost 8 million Americans are unemployed, the bill cuts funding for Unemployment Insurance and Employment Services offices that help jobless workers.

Just as the deadly avian flu could sweep the nation, the bill cuts the \$8 billion we provided to meet that threat. At the same time, this bill prohibits OSHA from enforcing key respiratory safety standards to protect health care workers from deadly infectious diseases.

And fails to provide adequate increases for programs to ensure worker safety, as workplace fatalities are increasing and deaths among Hispanic and immigrant workers are at epidemic levels.

It stops medical research in its tracks by giving NIH the lowest funding increase in over 35 years. Ironically – and sadly – these cuts come at a time when the Republicans are scrambling to complete a Reconciliation process that would double the deficit and cut programs for the poor in order to secure tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans. The House Reconciliation bill imposes new costs on students struggling to pay for college and cuts health benefits for poor and the elderly.

These actions are unconscionable. America deserves better. We can do better.

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