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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Aug. 11, 1981

To: Cong. A. Hawkins
Mr. John W. Smith

Re: Title I (of ESEA) Revisions in the new Elementary and Secondary Education Program Consolidation and Improvement Act

The new act appears in the "Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981".

The likely effect of the new bill on the operation of compensatory education programs currently receiving assistance under Title I of ESEA is as follows:

CURRENT LAW

1. Primary focus on meeting the special educational needs of educationally deprived children from low income families
2. Local Ed Agencies (LEA's) may target schools as well as areas
3. Formerly targetted areas which no longer meet the criteria in the current year, can continue in the program
4. LEA's may generally upgrade an entire school by operating a school-wide program
5. Parent involvement provisions in local communities thru parent advisory councils
6. Reduced paperwork requirements

REVISED LAW

1. Recognizes special educational needs of low-income children; target assistance language is ambiguous and vague; monitoring and enforcement requirement is absent.
2. LEA's must only focus on areas
3. No such authority for LEA's
4. No such authority provided
5. Eliminated
6. Drops the number of reports school districts must make to the state each year.

No timetables for state evaluations and other record-keeping. Record-keeping is required however.

CURRENT LAW

Excess cost provision: requires Title I funds to only pay for those educational costs of teaching disadvantaged children that exceeds a district's average per pupil expenditure.

Distribution of funds on an equitable basis (according to ranking) to schools

Requirement of districts to provide the same services in Title I areas as in non-Title I areas

Clear articulation of the responsibilities and limitation of the states and Federal government in overseeing the administration of Title I (re rulemaking, application approval, monitoring, auditing, and complaint resolution)

The new bill will thus radically alter current law and allow Title I to spend Federal money without the safeguards that exist in Title I now.

Some additional factors concerning the Title's revision is follows:

CURRENT LAW

Allocations for Title I basic, incentive, and concentration grants; Title I allocations for migratory, handicapped, neglected and delinquent children in state programs

use Title I funds for instructional personnel, program design, equipment, and necessary construction.

REVISED LAW

7. Repealed

8. Repealed

9. LEA's do not have to file comparability reports; only has to file a written assurance with the state.

10. No clear articulation

REVISED LAW

11. Would continue

12. Allowed

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| 13. Provisions to serve private school children: remedial classes in public schools; school districts must provide same services to private school children that they provide to public school children | 13. Provisions would continue |
| 14. Supplement, not supplant rules: prevents a district from using Title I funds in place of state or local dollars | 14. Modified by removing requirements in current law for special state programs for the disadvantaged.

Enforcement is ambiguous. No role for the Secretary to monitor |

Federal Policy

The major problem area in the differences between the old law and the new law is the fact that the declaration of policy is radically dissimilar.

Section 101 of Title I specifically talks about meeting the needs of "educationally deprived children", while Part I of the new law talks about providing assistance but in the context of relieving the paper work burden of school administrators.

The old law is child-centered while the new law is more concerned about the institution of education and is therefore institution-centered.

Additionally Title I - now Part I - is no longer a Federal program since all the responsibility under Part I is given to the states and to state education agencies.

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