



**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY WHIP  
THE HONORABLE JAMES E. CLYBURN (SC-06)**

# **THE WHIP PACK**

**WEEK OF JULY 9, 2007**

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## BILL TEXT AND BACKGROUND FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 9, 2007

- H.R. 2669 – College Cost Reduction Act of 2007
  - H.R. 2956 - Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act
  - H.R. 1851 – Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007
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**H.R. 2669 – COLLEGE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2007** *(Rep. George Miller – Education and Labor) (Subject to a Rule)*

**Bill Text:** [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

**Rules Committee Meeting:** [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#), [Amendment Process Announcement](#), [Summary of Amendments Submitted](#)

**Committee:** [Committee on Education and Labor](#)

**Committee Staff Contact:** 5-3725

### **LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:**

The College Cost Reduction Act of 2007 will provide the single largest investment in higher education since the GI bill. In addition, it will do so at no new cost to taxpayers, by cutting excess subsidies paid by the federal government to lenders in the student loan industry. The legislation will:

#### **Strengthen the Middle Class by Making College More Affordable**

- Cutting interest rates in half on subsidized student loans over the next five years.
- Making student loan payments more manageable for borrowers by guaranteeing that borrowers will not have to pay more than 15 percent of their discretionary income in loan repayments, and allowing borrowers in economic hardship to have their loans forgiven after 20 years.
- Increasing federal loan limits to provide borrowers with additional assistance in paying for college and to help them rely less on costlier private loans.
- Containing college costs.

#### **Increase the Purchasing Power of the Pell Grant Scholarship**

- Increasing the maximum Pell Grant scholarship by at least \$500 over the next five years, ultimately reaching a maximum scholarship of at least \$5,200.
- Expanding eligibility to include and serve more students with financial need.

#### **Ensure a Highly Qualified Teacher in Every Classroom**

- Providing upfront tuition assistance to qualified undergraduate students who commit to teaching in public schools in high-poverty communities or high-need subject areas.

## Encourage and Reward Public Service

- Providing loan forgiveness for first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters, nurses, public defenders, prosecutors, early childhood educators, librarians and others.
- Revising policies to allow public servants to have their loans forgiven after 10 years.

## Encourage Philanthropic Participation in College Retention and Financing

- Establishing a partnership with federal, state and local government entities and philanthropic organizations through matching challenge grants aimed at increasing the number of first generation and low-income college students.

## Make Landmark New Investments in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Tribally-Controlled Colleges and Universities, Alaska and Hawaiian Native Institutions, and Predominately Black Institutions

- Guaranteeing \$500 million over five years.

### **Committee Information:**

[College Cost Reduction Act Committee Site](#)

### **House Report 110-210:**

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

### **Full Committee Markup:**

[Full Committee Markup of H.R. 2669](#), June 13, 2007

[National Journal Report](#)

[Opening Statement](#): Chairman Miller

### **Summary of Committee Votes:**

- [Chairman Miller Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute](#) — Adds various provisions and made technical changes to H.R. 2669. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Bishop \(NY\) and Rep. Altmire \(PA\) Federal Capital Contribution to Perkins Loans Amendment](#) — Provides \$500 million in Federal capital contributions for the Perkins Loan Program for fiscal years 2008-2012. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Yarmuth \(KY\) and Rep. Tierney \(MA\) Student Loan Forgiveness Amendment](#) — Changes the \$5,000 loan-forgiveness program structure to \$1,000 per year of loan forgiveness for up to 5 years, rather than \$5,000 of loan forgiveness after 5 years of service. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Ehlers \(MI\) En Bloc Amendments](#) — Calls for a study by the National Academy of Sciences of the quality of distance education programs and encourage institutions to adopt and promote sustainable economic and environmental practices and rigorous sustainability academic programs. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Susan Davis \(CA\) Loan Deferment for National Guard Amendment](#) — Allows veterans who were enrolled in or left college within six months of deployment to receive extended repayment on loan terms of up to 13 months upon return from active duty. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

- [Rep. Petri \(WI\) En Bloc Amendments](#) — Adds proposals to conduct two studies. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Scott \(VA\) Upward Bound Assistance Amendment](#) — Restores Upward Bound funding to unfunded programs from the FY07 competition. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Loeb sack \(IA\) Year-Round Pell Grant Eligibility Amendment](#) — Allows part-time students and students in certificate programs to participate in the Year Round Pell Grant program. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Grijalva \(AZ\) Academic Competitiveness Grants Eligibility Amendment](#) — Expands the definition of an eligible student for Academic Competitiveness grants to include legal permanent residents, part-time students, and students in certificate programs. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Scott \(VA\) Upward Bound Absolute Priority Amendment](#) — Restricts the Secretary's use of funds for the purpose of evaluating the Upward Bound program and applying a new absolute priority for student eligibility to future competitions. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Courtney \(CT\), Rep. Shea-Porter \(NH\), and Rep. Danny Davis \(IL\) Funding Increases Amendment](#) — Provides an additional increase of \$100 for Pell Grants to the first year, bringing the total available in the 2008-2009 academic years to \$200, and bringing the total available in the 2011-2012 academic year to \$500. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. McKeon Substitute Amendment](#) — Would have increased Pell grants from about \$5 billion to \$12 million over five years and adjusted lender subsidies to pay for the increase. **Rejected 21-27; D 0-27; R 21-27.**
- [Rep. Souder Strike Loan Repayment Cap Amendment](#) — Would have added \$840 million to the bill and ended a relief plan for loan repayment for low-income wage earners. **Rejected 20-28; D 0-27; R 20-1.**
- [Rep. Price Strike Title III Amendment](#) — Would have eliminated Title III, the program of grants for would-be teachers. **Rejected 20-27; D 0-27; R 20-0.**
- [Rep. Price Strike Title IV Amendment](#) — Would have eliminated Title IV, an entitlement program for black, Hispanic-serving and tribal institutions and the matching challenge grant program for philanthropic organizations helping students. **Rejected 19-27; D 0-27; R 19-0.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the House of Representatives, as Amended, by a Recorded Vote of **30-16; D 27-0; R 3-16.** [Roll Call No. 5](#)

**CBO Cost Estimate:**

[CBO Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Education and Labor

**CRS Reports:**

[RL34077](#): Student Loans, Student Aid, and FY2008 Budget Reconciliation

**GAO Reports:**

(TBA)

**Organization Statements:**

[Letters of Support from Student Associations](#)  
[Letters of Support from Other Organizations](#)

**Administration Position:**

(TBA)

**Fact Sheets & Talking Points:**

[Fact Sheet on H.R. 2669](#), House Committee on Education and Labor  
[Fact Sheet on Who Would Benefit from the Legislation](#), House Committee on Education and Labor  
[State-by-State Student Benefits](#), House Committee on Education and Labor  
[College Cost Reduction Act of 2007: Democrats Provide Single Largest Increase in College Aid Since G.I. Bill \(At No New Cost to Taxpayers\) Highlights of Committee Report](#), June 2007

**Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:**

[Watch CNN Report on H.R. 2669](#)  
[Chairman Miller Introduces Legislation to Make Single Largest Investment in College Aid since GI Bill](#), June 12, 2007  
[House Education & Labor Committee Passes Single Largest Investment in College Aid since GI Bill](#), June 13, 2007  
[Outstanding College Students Would Receive New \\$16,000 Scholarships to Become Teachers under Legislation Making its Way through Congress](#), June 14, 2007  
[Chairman Miller Statement on Senate Markup of Higher Education Proposals](#), June 20, 2007  
[Editorial: College cost reduction act deserves support](#), *Shreveport Times*, July 6, 2007

**Other Resources:**

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2669](#)

**H.R. 2956 - RESPONSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT FROM IRAQ ACT** (Rep. Skelton- House Armed Services) (Subject to a Rule)

**Bill Text:** [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)  
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

**Rules Committee Meeting:** [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#)

**Committee:** [Committee on Armed Services](#)

**Committee Staff Contact:** 5-4151

**LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:**

The bill includes the following provisions:

- **Redeployment Must Begin within 120 Days of Enactment.** The bill would require the Secretary of Defense to begin the redeployment of troops from Iraq within 120 days of the date of enactment and to complete the “reduction and transition to a limited presence” by April 1, 2008.
- **Safe and Orderly Redeployment Must Emphasize Troop Protection.** The bill would require that the redeployment be conducted in a safe and orderly manner with maximum attention to ensuring the safety of our troops during the redeployment.
- **Comprehensive Iraq Strategy Required.** The bill would require the President to prepare and submit to Congress a comprehensive strategy for Iraq by January 1, 2008. The report would include:
  - A discussion of U.S. national security interests in Iraq, the broader Middle East region, and the diplomatic, political, economic, and military components of a comprehensive strategy to maintain and advance such interests as the Armed Forces are redeployed from Iraq.
  - A justification of the minimum force levels required to protect U.S. national security interests in Iraq after April 1, 2008, including (a) a description of the specific missions of the Armed Forces to be undertaken, (b) the projected number of Armed Forces necessary to carry out the missions, (c) the projected annual cost of the missions and (d) the expected duration of the missions.
  - As part of the justification, the President would be required, at a minimum, to address whether it is necessary for the Armed Forces to carry out the following missions: (a) protecting U.S. diplomatic facilities and U.S. citizens, including members of the Armed Forces who are engaged in carrying out other missions, (b) serving in roles consistent with customary diplomatic positions, (c) engaging in actions to disrupt and eliminate al-Qaeda and its affiliated organizations in Iraq, and (d) training and equipping members of the Iraqi Security Forces.
  - Finally, the President would be required to lay out specific diplomatic initiatives to engage U.S. allies and others in the region to bring stability to Iraq.

- **Regular Strategy and Progress Updates Required.** The bill would require the President to transmit to Congress an update to the comprehensive strategy for Iraq not later than July 1, 2008 and every 90 days thereafter, including a description of the number of Armed Forces deployed to Iraq and the missions for which such Armed Forces are deployed.
- **Openness and Transparency Required for Strategy.** The bill would further require that the comprehensive strategy and any updates thereof be transmitted to Congress in unclassified form, although the bill does permit the inclusion of a classified annex to the reports.

**CRS Reports:**

*(TBA)*

**GAO Reports:**

*(TBA)*

**Organization Statements:**

*(TBA)*

**Administration Position:**

*(TBA)*

**Fact Sheets & Talking Points:**

The Responsible Redeployment from Iraq Act, Talking Points, Office of the Speaker  
We Need a New Direction in Iraq, Quotes, Office of the Speaker

**Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:**

*(TBA)*

**H.R. 1851 - SECTION 8 VOUCHER REFORM ACT OF 2007** (Rep. Waters –Financial Services)  
(Subject to a Rule)

**Bill Text:** [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)  
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

**Rules Committee Meeting:** [Summary and Text of Amendments Submitted](#), [Rule, Committee Report, and roll call votes](#), [Amendment Process Announcement](#)

**Committee:** [Committee on Financial Services](#)

**Committee Staff Contact:** 5-4247

**LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:**

- **Reliable Section 8 Voucher Funding Formula.** H.R. 1851 authorizes the Section 8 low-income housing voucher program through FY 2012, and alters calculations of income, tenant rent, and public housing authority (PHA) funding. H.R. 1851 establishes a new reliable funding allocation formula for the renewal of Section 8 vouchers. H.R. 1851 includes provisions for reallocating unused funds and permitting public housing authorities (PHA) to borrow against future appropriations. These provisions will create a more efficient funding allocation by shifting resources from agencies not using all their funds to agencies that can use them to serve more families.
- **Simplified Rent and Recertification Procedures.** H.R. 1851 reforms the rules used to establish rents, while maintaining the essential and longstanding statutory provisions that keep rents affordable for lower income families. The bill simplifies the income calculation process by streamlining deductions, permitting families on fixed incomes to self-certify their income for up to three years, and permitting PHAs to use tenants' prior-year income to calculate current year income.
- **Streamlined Inspection Process.** H.R. 1851 makes minor changes to inspection requirements to ease administrative burdens and encourage occupancy, while at the same time maintaining the essential tenant protections that tenants should not move into unsafe units and that such units should be maintained at levels that meet federal Housing Quality Standards (HQS).
- **Self-Sufficiency Incentives.** H.R. 1851 includes a number of provisions designed to create incentives for families to obtain employment, increase earned income, pursue higher education, and save for retirement. The bill increases flexibility to use vouchers for homeownership and amends voucher targeting rules to increase voucher opportunities for lower income working families in rural areas.
- **Portability.** H.R. 1851 reforms the financing of “portability” moves, so that families can more easily exercise their right to move with a voucher and agencies can save burdensome paperwork and avoid cash-flow problems.
- **Housing Innovation Program.** H.R. 1851 expands the number of public housing agencies that can participate in the Housing Innovation Program [renamed from "Moving to Work"], which lets agencies experiment with development, financing, and work incentive proposals, while also adding substantial tenant protections to the program

**House Report 110-216:**  
[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

**Full Committee Mark-up:**

[Full Committee Markup of H.R. 2347, H.R. 1851, H.R. 1980, H.R. 1982, H.R. 2139](#), May 23, 2007,

[National Journal Report May 24](#), [National Journal Report May 23](#)

**Summary of Committee Votes:**

- [Rep. Waters Manager's Amendment](#) — Adds various provisions and made technical changes to H.R. 1851. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Murphy Income Tabulation Restriction Amendment](#) — Excludes income from Coverdell and Section 529 educational accounts from rent calculations. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Green Incremental Unit Expansion Amendment](#) — Authorizes additional vouchers. **Adopted, as Amended, by Voice Vote.**
  - [Rep. Bachus Amendment to the Amendment](#) — Modifies the number of vouchers to 20,000 new incremental vouchers in each of the next five years. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Royce, Foreign Language Document Limitation Amendment](#) — Would have prevented the housing authority from issuing documents in languages other than English. **Rejected 27-34; D 0-33; R 27-1. (FC-48)**
- [Rep. Capuano Family Size-Blind Voucher Amendment](#) — Adds family size protections to enhanced vouchers. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Price \(GA\) Require Budgetary Offset Amendment](#) — Would have required voucher funds be offset by other programs. **Rejected 28-35; D 0-34; R 28-1.**
- [Rep. Lynch Rent Burden Restriction Amendment](#) — Strengthens voucher provisions to address areas when families face high rent burdens. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Watt Applicant Screening Amendment](#) — Limits the screening of applicants to ensure that families seeking public and assisted housing are only screened based on their ability to meet lease obligations. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Hensarling Work Requirement Amendment](#) — Would have imposed work requirements on voucher recipients living more than seven years in Section 8 subsidized housing. **Rejected 28-35; D 2-32; R 26-3. (FC-50)**
- [Rep. Moore \(WI\) Demonstration Project Amendment](#) — Increases voucher work incentives for disabled persons, in conjunction with State demonstration programs. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Green Contract Extension Amendment](#) — Extends contract terms for vouchers used in housing tax credit projects from 10 to 15 years to help facilitate financing for such projects. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Lynch Recertification Income Eligibility Extension Amendment](#) — Adds protection for tenants under current contracts with 95 percent of median income. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**

- [Rep. Miller \(CA\) Assistance Time Limitation Amendment](#) — Would have imposed a seven-year time limit on vouchers. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Waters Housing Quality Standards Amendment](#) — Adds language on enforcement of housing quality standards. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Waters Housing Innovation Program Expansion Amendment](#) — Adds provisions regarding the Housing Innovation Program and increased the number of public housing agencies. **Adopted, as Amended, by Voice Vote.**
  - [Rep. Miller \(CA\) Amendment to the Amendment](#) — Increases the number of public housing agencies from 50 to 60. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Favorably Reported to the House of Representatives, as Amended, by a Recorded Vote of **52-9; D 31-0; R 21-9.** ([FC-51](#))

**Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity Hearing:**

[Hearing on The Section 8 Voucher Reform Act](#), March 9, 2007

[Member Statement:](#) Congressman Sires

[Transcript of Hearing](#), [Webcast](#)

**Panel One:**

- [The Honorable Orlando J. Cabrera](#), Assistant Secretary, Public and Indian Housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

**Panel Two:**

- [Mr. Saul N. Ramirez](#), Executive Director, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
- [Mr. Curt Hiebert](#), Executive Director, Keene, New Hampshire, Authority, on behalf of Public Housing Authorities Directors Association
- [Ms. Sunia Zaterman](#), Executive Director, Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
- [Mr. John E. Day](#), President DuPage Housing Authority
- [Mr. Richard Godfrey](#), Executive Director, Rhode Island Housing

**Panel Three:**

- [Ms. Sheila Crowley](#), President, National Low Income Housing Coalition
- [Ms. Barbara Sard](#), Director of Housing Policy, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
- [Ms. Janet Charlton](#), President, Triton Advisors, on behalf of National Leased Housing Association and National Multi Housing Council
- [Mr. Andrew Sperling](#), Director of Government Relations, National Association for the Mentally Ill Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities
- [Mr. Phil Tegeler](#), Poverty & Race Research Action Council

**CBO Cost Estimate:**

[CBO Cost Estimate:](#) Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Financial Services

**CRS Reports:**

[RL33879:](#) Housing Issues in the 110th Congress

[RL34002:](#) Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program: Issues and Reform Proposals in the 110th Congress

**GAO Reports:**

*(TBA)*

**Organization Statements:**

*(TBA)*

**Administration Position:**

*(TBA)*

**Fact Sheets & Talking Points:**

Section 8 Summary, Committee on Financial Services

**Press Releases, News Articles & Related Information:**

[Financial Services Committee Passes Section 8 Voucher Reform Act of 2007](#), May 25, 2007

**Other Resources:**

[Cosponsors of H.R. 1851](#)