

Office of Federal Relations Harvard University

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Washington Update: Deal Emerging on Economic Stimulus Legislation

As we learn more about the economic recovery package taking shape on Capitol Hill, we wanted to share with you the attached summary of what has emerged from the House-Senate negotiations. The two-year, \$789 billion package is a mix of \$507 billion in spending and \$282 billion in tax relief. Of that spending, the bill makes a significant investment in student aid and research, as outlined below. It is unclear when Congress will vote on the package – a House vote scheduled for today has been delayed until Friday at the earliest.

Student Aid Highlights:

- Increases the maximum Pell Grant by \$500, for a maximum of \$5,350 in 2009 and \$5,550 in 2010
- Increases the higher education tax credit to a maximum of \$2,500, an undisclosed amount of which will be partially refundable
- Adds \$200 million to College Work-Study

Science and Research Highlights:

- Provides \$8.5 billion for NIH for biomedical research
- Provides \$1.5 billion for NIH to renovate university research facilities and help them compete for biomedical research grants
- Provides \$2.5 billion for the NSF, for basic research in fundamental science and engineering
- Provides \$1.6 billion for the Department of Energy's Office of Science
- Provides \$1 billion for NASA, including \$400 million for climate change research

These highlights focus solely on funding levels made public by congressional leadership: many details are still unavailable, including the status of a number of important non-spending related policy provisions. We will continue to aggressively track those issues and bring you updates as they become available.

We will provide additional details on the package as they become available. If you have any questions about this update or our ongoing monitoring and advocacy efforts, please contact Suzanne Day or Jon Groteboer: (202) 863.1292.