

Wasteful, Duplicative, and Obsolete Programs to be Terminated to Pay for Veterans Caregivers Assistance

- **Eliminate Rail Line Relocation Grants.** An alternative program achieves the same goal based on a formula allocation that allows States to set their own priorities. Most of the Rail Line Relocation Program funds are directed to earmarks rather than distributed through a need or merit-based process.

Savings: \$125M over five years.

- **Eliminate Over-The-Road Bus Security Assistance.** The President proposed eliminating this program since the awards are not based on risk assessment, and the homeland security investments in intercity bus security should be evaluated in the context of the risks faced and relative benefits to be gained by Federal investments across all transportation sectors.

Savings: \$60M over five years.

- **Eliminate Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Funding.** This act protects other nation's tropical forests and coral reefs by forgiving debts owed the United States by developing countries in exchange for the preservation of their tropical forests and coral reefs.

Savings: \$20M over five years.

- **Eliminate Weed & Seed Initiative.** The Department of Justice (DOJ) "Weed & Seed" provides federal grants to local law enforcement entities for educational prevention programs, but is duplicative of many current federal programs, including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance program, COPS, and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

Savings: \$310M over five years.

- **Eliminate Cotton Storage Costs.** Payments to cotton producers to compensate them for their cost of storing cotton that is put under loan with the Department of Agriculture. Cotton is the only commodity for which the Government unconditionally provides this assistance.

Savings: \$279M over five years.

- **Eliminate the Resource Conservation and Development Program.** The Resource Conservation and Development Program funds coordinators in 375 Resource Conservation and Development Districts in every State, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin. First begun in 1962, the program was intended to build community leadership skills through the establishment of RC&D councils that would access Federal, State, and local programs for the community's benefit. After 47 years, this goal has been accomplished.

Savings: \$255M over five years.

- **Eliminate Brownfields Revitalization Funding.** This program is extremely small relative to other programs that address this need. Local governments have access to other public and private funds that can address the same purposes.

Savings: \$50M over five years.

- **Eliminate Character Education Programs.** The Character Education program supports the design and implementation of character education interventions, but a recent review of the evidence base suggests that it is very difficult to produce positive effects on student outcomes through character education programs alone.

Savings: \$60M over five years.

- **Eliminate Civic Education Programs at the Department of Education.** The non-competitive awards provided by the Civic Education program and the Close-Up Fellowships program circumvent the merit-based grant-making process at the Department of Education.

Savings: \$165M over five years.

- **Eliminate Environmental Infrastructure Construction.** Strike Sections 5039, 5061, 5085, 5082, 5065. Water and wastewater infrastructure projects, often referred to as "environmental infrastructure" projects, are outside the Corps of Engineers' main mission areas of commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and significant aquatic ecosystem restoration.

Savings: \$250M over five years.

- **Eliminate the National Institute for Literacy.** NIFL has had minimal success in fulfilling its mission to coordinate literacy services across the Federal Government. Efforts to provide national literacy leadership could be coordinated more efficiently by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education within the Department of Education.

Savings: \$250M over five years.

- **Eliminate the Ready to Teach Grant Program.** The Ready to Teach (RTT) program contains design flaws that reflect outdated ideas on the content and delivery of teacher professional development. In lieu of this program, the Administration supports teacher professional development through other Department programs and activities.

Savings: \$55M over five years.

- **Eliminate the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) State Grants program.** The SDFSC State Grants program provides formula funds intended to help create and maintain drug-free, safe, and orderly environments for learning in and around schools. While reducing violence and drug use in and around schools is a compelling goal, reviews by an independent evaluator and by a statutory advisory committee have demonstrated that this program is poorly matched to achieving that goal.

Savings: \$295M over five years.

- **Eliminate the Center Between East and West.** The East-West Center (EWC) is a nonprofit organization governed by an international board. It was established in 1960 at the University of Hawaii to promote U.S.- Asia Pacific understanding and relations by bringing Americans and individuals from the Asia Pacific region to the Center for policy-oriented study, training, and research.

Savings: \$120M over five years.

· **Eliminate Federal Funding for the Asia Foundation.** This organization, founded in the 1960s to help fight the war of ideas against the Soviet Union, administers programs to support training and technical assistance to strengthen civil society and democratic institutions in Asia. This non-profit, non-governmental organization receives charitable donations from individuals, corporations, and foundations, and would be able to operate without federal funding. It would also remain available to apply for grants from the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development.

Savings: \$95M over five years.

· **Eliminate the Essential Air Service (EAS).** The EAS gives subsidies to air carriers providing service to approximately 115 small communities, many of which are near larger airports and fly mostly empty planes. In some areas, the federal taxpayers subsidize over \$1,000 or more for plane tickets that costs \$200 or less for the passenger. This 'transitional' program was scheduled to end decades ago.

Savings: \$625M over five years.

· **Establish a Pilot Program to Divest the Federal Government of Unneeded Property.** The Federal government has tens of thousands of buildings and real estate that sit each year unused. This program will establish a five year pilot program which would give the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) temporary authority to sell or demolish property that the federal government owns but no longer needs. The current process in place for disposing of unneeded federal buildings is inefficient and cumbersome. The amendment would both expedite the process and create a financial incentive for agencies to sell the property they no longer need.

Savings: \$860M over five years.

· **Eliminate Farm Payments to Dead Farmers.** According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), there were over \$1.1 billion in payments to deceased farmers in the most recent seven-year period, and that 40 percent of those payments were to people dead more than three years. Eliminating this abuse will save the taxpayers millions every year.

Savings: \$400 million over five years.

· **Eliminate Federal Funding for Beach Replenishment Projects.** Each year the Army Corps of Engineers spends millions to rebuild eroded beach areas. Instead of federal taxpayers footing this bill, local governments and private landowners should bear this cost as they receive the benefit of beach recreation. Also, the effectiveness of beach replenishment projects by the federal government is of dubious utility as erosion continues regardless of the amount of funding spent on replenishment projects.

Savings: \$457 million over five years.

· **Eliminate Federal Funding for the FreedomCAR and Fuel Partnership.** The FreedomCAR and Fuel Partnership is a joint effort of the federal government and private industry to promote research on fuel cells in energy-efficient vehicles. The private sector already is investing heavily in fuel cells and energy-efficient vehicles on its own and past efforts by the government in this area have not produced results.

Savings: \$972 million over five years.

· **Eliminate subsidies for food and beverage service at Amtrak.** In 2005, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that Amtrak loses over \$85 million a year in food and beverage service. By requiring Amtrak to discontinue down food and beverage service, as a business would, the taxpayers could save \$430 million over five years.

Savings: \$430 million over five years.

· **Drop Wealthier Communities from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.** The current formula for determining Community Development Block Grants does not consider the number of residents below the poverty line nor does it consider the average income of the community. Instead, it relies on population growth and housing units. By focusing CDBG grants on communities truly in need of entitlement grant funding (below 110% of the national income average), billions can be saved.

Savings: \$1.5 billion over five years.