

NLWJC - Kagan

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**Education - Vocational Education
Bill**



Vocational Education for Women and Girls In Jeopardy

The House of Representatives eliminated requirements to fund specific vocational education programs that help women and girls. These programs give marketable skills to single parents and displaced homemakers (women who enter or reenter the job market due to life situations such as divorce, loss of a spouse, and after raising children), and increase women's and girls' access to non-traditional fields like car repair.

Vocational Education Is Cost Effective and Helps Women Earn More to Become Economically Self-Sufficient

- In 1995, only 5.7 percent of all working women were employed in non-traditional occupations such as mechanics and construction. These women earned 20 to 30 percent more than women in traditional occupations, according to Wider Opportunities for Women.
- In Pennsylvania, the state saved nearly \$2 million per year when women in displaced homemaker programs moved from welfare to work.
- In Florida's program, 81 percent of displaced homemakers who participated earned less than \$10,000 per year. After completing the program, 71 percent were employed, earning an average income of \$20,700 per year.

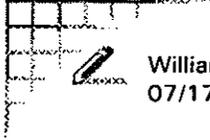
Before these specific programs were established in 1984, states spent only 0.2 percent of their vocational education funding on specialized programs for women and girls versus 10.5 percent today. The funding of these programs is in jeopardy; help save them by calling your Senator.

Here's What You Can Do!

-  Help spread the word; work with friends to distribute this alert in your community.
-  Call your senators at 202/224-3121 and urge them to fund vocational education programs for women and girls.

WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR CHANGE - American Association of University Women - Advocates for Youth - American Jewish Congress - American Medical Women's Association - Business and Professional Women/USA - Center for Ethics in Action - Center for Policy Alternatives - Coalition of Labor Union Women - Federally Employed Women - Feminist Majority - Fifty plus One - Girls Incorporated - Gray Panthers - Independent Federation of Flight Attendants - MANA, A National Latina Organization - Ms. Foundation for Women - 9to5, National Association of Working Women - National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League - National Abortion Federation - National Association of Social Workers - National Center for the Early Childhood Work Force - National Council of Jewish Women - National Council of Negro Women - National Organization for Women - National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc. - National Women's Law Center - National Women's Political Caucus - New Girl Times - Older Women's League - Planned Parenthood Federation of America - ProChoice Resource Center - Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice - United States Student Association - Wider Opportunities for Women - Women Work! - Women's Campaign Fund - Women's Environment and Development Organization - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom - Women's Legal Defense Fund

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE ALERTS, CALL 1-800-608-5286



William R. Kincaid
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Record Type: Record

To: Bruce N. Reed/OPD/EOP, Elena Kagan/OPD/EOP
cc: Michael Cohen/OPD/EOP
Subject: Voc-Ed Bill to pass House today

fyi -- HR 1853, the Perkins Voc-Education reauthorization bill, is expected to pass by a wide margin on the House floor this afternoon. Earlier this week, subcommittee chairman Riggs and the Republicans reached a compromise with Democrats on the bill's intra-state funding formula, heading off a highly partisan vote. The bill would achieve several administration goals, including streamlining the legislation from multiple different set-asides to a single, flexible state grant program together with a separate tech-prep program. However, there are still serious concerns with the bill, including poor accountability for performance, limits on the ability of states to implement programs for students to attain industry-recognized skill standards (driven by the right wing), and still-inadequate in-state targeting. The Department of Education hopes to be able to clean up some of these problems in the Senate.