

(Washington DC) Yesterday, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education reported out an appropriations bill that would cut funding for the Corporation For Public Broadcasting (CPB) by more than 20% from last year's funding levels. Each Democrat on the Subcommittee voted against the bill, which dramatically cuts funding for other programs American families depend on. Next, the full House Appropriations Committee will consider this bill before the House will consider and vote on it.

A private, non-profit corporation created in 1967, CPB was created as a means for non-partisan funding for public television and radio stations. CPB financially assists local stations broadcast Public Broadcast Service (PBS,) National Public Radio (NPR) and Public Radio International (PRI.) CPB funding helps these affiliates in their mission to provide high-quality news, arts programming and entertainment for Americans.

"PBS brings the world into homes throughout America and makes sure our children have informative television programs that will feed their minds," said Congressman Gonzalez. "Parents know that when they watch PBS or listen to NPR that their families will have access to unparalleled programming no matter the time of day or night. Therefore, cutting funding for CPB is unacceptable.

After the Republican controlled House was forced to restore CPB funding last year, one would think they would not try to do so again. Citizens all over America made it known how much PBS and NPR meant to their lives, and in the face of this overwhelming opposition, Republicans relented and restored funding.

Yet, one year later, Republicans are again looking to force through deep cuts that will diminish the ability of these civic institutions to inform and enrich America. CPB represents the best of what government does because it fills the need for educational and informative programs that the other broadcasters do not provide. Cutting their funding would leave our nation poorer in a number of ways and I call on the full Appropriations Committee to fund CPB at necessary levels."

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