

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Capitol, S-131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
U.S. Capitol, S-131
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial
Services and General Government
Room 142, Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial
Services and General Government
Room 128, Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairman Durbin, and Ranking
Member Moran:

As you consider the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for
Fiscal Year 2013, I recommend the following programmatic funding:

Language Description: As it currently stands, there is no easily understandable way for
legislators to know if we are investing properly in our kids. The language in my
appropriations request would call for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to
produce an accurate accounting of federal spending on and for children.

OMB is already required to report on funding levels for other areas of importance,
including Homeland Security, meteorology, and the Export-Import Bank. Funding for
kids is absolutely as vital as the other areas. As we debate ways to improve our budget
process, we should be sure that process is working for our children.

This request would cost no additional money for OMB to implement. It simply asks
them to consolidate information they should already have. Our children deserve the
brightest possible future, and we need to know whether we are making an adequate
investment. With nearly 1 in every 4 children living in poverty, our nation's future
depends on investing appropriately in them.

I am asking for this language to be included in the text of the Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill.

Requested Language:

Section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by—

- (1) redesignating paragraph (37), as added by Public Law 111–352, as paragraph (39); and
- (2) adding at the end the following:

“(40)(A) A detailed, separate analysis for the prior fiscal year, the current fiscal year, the fiscal year for which the budget is submitted, and the ensuing fiscal year identifying the amounts of gross and net appropriations or obligational authority and outlays that are directed to children within the United States and territories including—

- “(i) summaries of the total amount of such appropriations or new obligational authority and outlays requested for children and children’s programs;
- “(ii) an estimate of current levels of spending on children and children’s programs; and
- “(iii) a detailed breakdown of spending on children and children’s programs by agency, department, and initiative.

“(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘children’ means individuals under the age of 19.

“(C) In this paragraph, spending on children includes—

- “(i) Federal entitlement spending that goes directly to children
- “(ii) outlays for programs and initiatives that, consistent with their mission, deliver services exclusively to children;
- “(iii) outlays for programs and initiatives that, while not serving children directly, have as a core mission goal, the improvement of children’s health, education, welfare, and general well-being; and
- “(iv) a share of funding for Federal programs and initiatives that deliver services to both children and adults that is consistent with the share of program benefits for children based on the best available data.

“(D) In implementing this paragraph, including determining what Federal activities or accounts constitutes spending on children or children’s programs, the Office of

Senators Inouye, Cochran, Durbin, and Moran

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Management and Budget shall consult periodically with the Committees on the Budget of the Senate and the House, the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House, and the Congressional Budget Office.”

If you have any questions, please contact Cory Turner of my staff at (202) 224-7309.

Sincerely,



Mark Begich
United States Senator