APPROPRIATIONS: HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES FY13 HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING LEGISLATION

On May 16, 2012, the House Appropriations Committee reported the FY13 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill by a voice vote. The legislation provides $39.1 billion in discretionary funding for DHS, a decrease of $484 million below last year's level and a decrease of $393 million below the President's request.

Under the bill, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would receive $2.8 billion – an increase of over $400 million compared to fiscal year 2012 – for FEMA First Responder Grants, including $1.8 billion for State and Local Grants. The Committee also recommends consolidating grant programs into a streamlined fund allocated based on certain factors, such as risk to communities. The bill provides $670 million, the amount requested, for Assistance to Firefighter Grants and $350 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) would be appropriated $10.2 billion -- an increase of $77 million above the President's request and $9.4 million above last year's level, when adjusted for proposed transfers and realignments. This funding will provide for 21,370 Border Patrol agents and 21,186 CBP officers and includes $117 million for Inspection and Detection Technology. In addition, the bill includes $518 million for Air and Marine operations and procurement to continue air patrol efforts on the U.S. border.

The bill also provides $68 million for CBP's National Targeting Center – an increase of $16 million over fiscal year 2012 -- to enhance the identification of known and suspected terrorists and criminals. The bill also provides no less than $20 million for outreach to counter human trafficking, and $327 million for border security fencing, infrastructure, and technology.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would be provided $5.5 billion – an increase of $141.6 million above the President's request and $76.8 million below last year's level. Committee documents state...
that the Committee chose not to accept many of the cuts to ICE requested in the President's budget.

The bill includes over $1.7 billion for both domestic and international investigation programs, including $35 million for the Visa Security Program, $78 million for the Office of Intelligence, and an increase of $11 million to address human smuggling and trafficking. The bill also provides $138 million to complete the deployment of the Secure Communities program, and $2.7 billion for ICE detention bed spaces, providing for a total of 34,000 beds.

The bill includes a total of $748.9 million for cybersecurity, $20 million below the President's request and $306 million above last year's level. This increase provides funding for a new initiative to improve Federal Network Security that will help blunt cyber-attacks and foreign espionage.

The bill includes $826 million for Science and Technology, $5.5 million below the President's request and $158 million above last year's level. This funding provides investment in research and development efforts, including first responder needs, explosives detection, and cyber threats.

Among the amendments approved during full committee consideration are the following:

- An amendment waiving restrictions on SAFER firefighter grants, allowing the retention of existing firefighter personnel. The amendment was adopted on a voice vote.
- An amendment prohibiting funding to require private facilities to use certain personnel identification security measures if the facility already has sufficient security measures in place. The amendment was adopted on a voice vote.

For more information, go to: http://appropriations.house.gov. The California Institute will prepare a more detailed report on the appropriations and implications for California in the near future.

**APPROPRIATIONS: SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE APPROVES FY13 HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING**


Highlights of the bill include:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) would be provided $11.973 billion, $378 million above fiscal year 2012. This funding level supports 21,370 Border Patrol agents, sustaining the increased levels approved in the fiscal year 2010 Supplemental and 21,186 CBP officers working at the ports of entry. It also adds $71 million above the request for procurement, operations, and maintenance of critical air and marine assets.

- The Subcommittee also included language "prohibiting waiver of the Jones Act for transporting releases of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve until the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretaries of the Departments of Energy and Transportation and representatives from the United States-flag maritime industry, takes adequate measures to ensure the use of United States flag vessels."
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) would be provided $5.642 billion, $220 million below fiscal year 2012. This level provides a total of $2.696 billion for detention and removal operations, $18 million by transfer from CBP for visa overstay analysis as part of US-VISIT, funding to maintain current staffing levels for Special Agents and immigration officials, including the agents and officers previously hired in support of investigations on the Southwest border, and provides an additional $5 million for support to overseas vetted law enforcement units. According to the Subcommittee, the bill also "provides an appropriate immigration enforcement balance between detention beds and alternatives."

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) would receive $117 million in direct appropriations, $14.5 million above fiscal year 2012. This level fully funds the $112 million request to maintain and improve the employment eligibility verification system known as E-Verify and provides $10 million for immigrant integration grants, $5 million through appropriations and an additional $5 million from fee funds.

Science and Technology (S&T) would be provided $831 million, $163 million above fiscal year 2012, bringing S&T funding back to fiscal year 2011 levels. Funds are for Research and Development in the following areas: biological defense, explosives defense, cyber security, first responders, border security, chemical countermeasures, and interoperability.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) would receive $6.089 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund, of which $5.481 billion is provided pursuant to the Budget and Control Act disaster relief adjustment, as requested. The Subcommittee noted that the bill continues its support for policy programs such as dam safety and hurricane and earthquake preparedness as well as funding for modernization of information technology systems.

The bill provides $1.41 billion for state and local grant programs, $369 million above the comparable fiscal year 2012 level. According to the Subcommittee, "the bill does not include grant reform as proposed in the President's budget request due to the lack of specific detail regarding how funds would be distributed." Included in state and local grant funding is:

- $415 million for State Homeland Security Grants;
- $55 million for Operation Stonegarden;
- $664 million for the Urban Area Security Initiative;
- $13 million for Non-profit Security Grants;
- $119 million for Transit and Rail Security Grants;
- $13 million for Amtrak security; and
- $132 million Port Security grants.

Other grants and programs that received funding include the following:

- $337.5 million each for the fire equipment grant program and the firefighter hiring grant program ($675 million total);
- $350 million for Emergency Management Performance Grants;
- $7.5 million to reimburse State and local governments for prevention and preparedness costs related to National Special Security Events;
- $35 million for Predisaster Mitigation grants;
- $97.3 million for Flood Mapping and Risk Analysis;
- $44 million for the United States Fire Administration;
- $150 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program;
- $158 million is for the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium;
- $26 million for continuing training grants; and
- $17.8 million for the Emergency Management Institute National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) ($1.2 billion in total)
In addition, the bill supports travel initiatives run by Customs and Border Protection and the Transportation Security Administration to better facilitate travel and tourism within and to the U.S. The bill includes a total of $24 million for this purpose.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to mark up the bill in the near future.

For more information:
http://www.appropriations.senate.gov/ht-homeland-security.cfm?method=hearings.view&id=81cd57f5-456f-437e-84a9-1ce8cd5e6ac4

**Appropriations: Institute Reports Available on Website**

The following reports on Appropriations bills prepared by the California Institute are now available on its website.


Previously posted reports include:


Other reports on House and Senate appropriations bills will be posted as they become available.


On May 16, 2012, the House Judiciary Committee held an oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (AIA). Witnesses were: The Honorable David Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), United States Department of Commerce; Mr. Robert A. Armitage, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Eli Lilly and Company; Mr. Eliot D. Williams, Partner, Baker Botts L.L.P., on behalf of The Financial Services Roundtable (FSR), The American Bankers Association (ABA), The American Insurance Association (AIA), The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA), The National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), and The Credit Union National Association (CUNA). Mr. Carl B. Horton, Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, General Electric, on behalf of the Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform; Mr. Kevin H. Rhodes, President and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, 3M Innovative Properties Company, on behalf of the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO); Mr. Richard A. Brandon, Associate General Counsel, University of Michigan, on behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU); and Mr. Timothy Molino, Director of Government Relations, Business Software Alliance (BSA).

Director Kappos reported that the USPTO has implemented seven provisions of the AIA – all within the time frames prescribed by the Act – and has published proposed rules for nine more provisions, all of which should be implement on time. Final Rules are to be issued on or before August 16, 2012, and become effective on September 16, 2012. He stated that in early February, the USPTO published proposed fees for all of the patent services it provides, pursuant to the new fee setting authority under the AIA, and will work with stakeholders over the coming months to ensure that fees are set at appropriate levels. Director Kappos
also detailed several other initiatives and actions the USPTO is taking to ensure successful implementation of the law.

Other issues discussed, included:
- the importance of the Transitional Business Review Program and recommendations on implementing various provisions of the law
- the possible need for further legislation to clarify the grace period for inventors – which is particularly important for university researchers – and to further expand prior user rights
- recommendations on proposed changes to the Transitional Program for Covered Business Method Patents, Inter partes Review (“IPR”), and Post-Grant Review (“PGR”). The purpose of these programs is to remove “low quality” patents from the system that may have inadvertently been issued by the Patent Office.

To obtain the testimony of all witnesses, go to:

**ECONOMY: HOUSE ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES PROMOTING TOURISM**

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade, chaired by Rep. Mary Bono Mack (Palm Springs) held a hearing on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, titled “Where the Jobs Are: Promoting Tourism to America.” Witnesses included: The Honorable Nicole Y. Lamb-Hale, Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce; James Evans, Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for Travel Promotion (also know as Brand USA); Geoff Freeman, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President, U.S. Travel Association; and Scott White, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In her opening statement, Chairwoman Bono Mack stated: “The President’s Task Force on Travel and Competitiveness has set a lofty goal of attracting 100 million international visitors, who will spend $250 billion annually, by the end of 2021. Can we accomplish that goal? Well, as chairman of this subcommittee, here’s my answer – let’s roll up our sleeves and get to work.” She noted that tourism is among the top three employers in 29 states, and in her district – Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley – it’s the number one industry. Last year, she stated, tourism nationwide generated $1.2 trillion in economic activity and supported nearly 8 million jobs. In 2011, travel and tourism in America grew by 3 ½ % – more than twice the rate of growth for the entire economy.

Rep. Bono Mack also stressed the importance of the Travel Promotion Act, which was enacted in 2010 with bipartisan support. The Act created the non-profit Corporation for Travel Promotion, or CTP, which has specific duties intended to increase international travel to the U.S.

Mr. Scott further explained the importance of tourism to the Palm Springs area economy. He discussed the importance of the Travel Promotion Act and the creation of Brand USA for a regional destination such as Palm Springs to compete and especially to bring more international visitors to the area. He noted that at this time Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and France are the area’s top international tourist countries. Mr. Scott believes that the Brand USA campaign will enable Greater Palm Springs to target new destinations, including Japan, China, India and South America, and grow its economy.

For the testimony of all the witnesses, go to:

**IMMIGRATION: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES BILL TO ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL VISITORS**

On May 17, 2012, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement, chaired by Rep. Elton Gallegly (Simi Valley) held a hearing on H.R. 3039, the "Welcoming Business Travelers and Tourists to America Act of 2011."
The bill is aimed at encouraging international visitors to come to the United States by speeding up visa processing in the high-growth markets of China, Brazil, and India. It would also authorize a two-year pilot program for the processing of nonimmigrant visas using secure remote video-conferencing technology for visa interviews. It would also authorize the Secretary of State to modify or enter into agreements with certain countries on a non-reciprocal basis to allow for longer visa validity periods if doing so would not cause any adverse effects to the United States.

Witnesses were: Rep. Joe Heck (NV), the author of the bill; Ms. Janice Kephart, Director of National Security Policy, Center for Immigration Studies; Ms. Jessica Zuckerman, Research Associate, Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation; and Mr. Edward Alden, Bernard L. Schwartz Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations.

Issues discussed at the hearing included:
- whether the legislation could potentially result in increasing illegal immigration in the United States;
- the impact that secure video conferencing of visa interviews might have on national security;
- the benefits to the U.S. economy from increasing the number of long-distance travelers;
- the success of efforts by the State Department to decrease visa application waiting periods;
- the benefits of establishing, as required by H.R. 3039, a visa processing standard of twelve or fewer calendar days in China, Brazil, and India.

For the testimony of the witnesses, go to: http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/Hearings%202012/hear_05172012_3.html.

ENVIRONMENT: SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

On May 16, 2012, the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Children's Health and Environmental Responsibility held a hearing titled Growing Long-Term Value: Corporate Environmental Responsibility and Innovation. The hearing focused on businesses' sustainability efforts, and how those efforts are an integrated part of business strategy.

Witnesses included: Mr. Todd Brady, Global Environment Director, Intel Corporation; Dr. Len Sauers, PhD, Vice President, Global Sustainability, Procter & Gamble; Mr. Parker Smith, Vice President and General Manager, Worldwide Manufacturing, Eastman Chemical Company; and, Mr. Mitch Jackson, Staff Vice President, Environmental Affairs/Sustainability, FedEx Corporation.

Mr. Brady testified about Intel's efforts to incorporate sustainability through three focuses: "(1) reducing the environmental footprint of our operations (2) creating eco smart products and (3) using Intel technology to address critical environmental challenges." He spoke specifically of the "design for environment" process, which he described as a "a collaborative approach among environmental, research and development (R&D) and high volume manufacturing engineering." The goal of such a process is "to make successful environmental performance a core responsibility of the technology development process." Environmental goals are created early on, and treated with equal importance compared to other goals (i.e. cost, process yield, or throughput). Mr. Brady also spoke of how Intel engages employees and the public in its environmental efforts.

Other topics of discussion included:
- Example strategies used to build sustainable companies. For example, the following strategy used by Proctor & Gamble: engaging the consumer with sustainable innovations that improve the environmental profile of its products.
- The benefits of strong public-private partnerships, for example through the Department of Energy and some of its initiatives, such as the Better Buildings, Better Plants program.
- The ENERGY STAR program through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the EPA's efforts to facilitate opportunities for businesses in similar industries to interact with each other.
- The transparency practiced by companies, some of whom engage their stakeholders by providing the company's emissions profile.

For more information, go to:

**ENERGY: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES SUBSIDIES FOR GREEN ENERGY**

On May 16, 2012, the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs, Stimulus Oversight and Government Spending held a hearing titled *The Obama Administration's Green Energy Gamble: What Have All The Taxpayer Subsidies Achieved?*

Witnesses included: Mr. Craig Witsoe, President and CEO, Abound Solar, Inc.; Mr. Brian Fairbank, President and CEO, Nevada Geothermal Power, Inc.; Mr. John Woolard, President and CEO, BrightSource Energy, Inc.; Mr. Michael Ahearn, Chairman of the Board, First Solar, Inc.; Mr. James Nelson, President and CEO, Solar 3D, Inc.; and, Mr. Gregory Kats, President, Capital-E.

Mr. Woolard testified that the Department of Energy's (DOE) "loan guarantee program was an important part of moving our innovative technology beyond pilot and demonstration scale to utility scale. It's this scale that allows us to drive down future costs." Using the "project financing model," he said, "equity owners provide the portion of the project costs that is not served by the loan." This loan is meant to help "commercialize innovative energy technologies." In his company's case, it helped to make "next-generation solar thermal" projects a reality. He gave the example of the project in the Mojave Desert, called "Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System," and said that "without the loan guarantee, this project may not have happened."

Mr. Nelson, whose company is working on an innovative 3D Cell for solar energy, took a different point of view. He stated that his company's progress is "not depending or dependent on government funding. We certainly do not expect that such support will be necessary to facilitate the commercialization of our new technology." Instead, the company's "go-to-market strategy will be to partner with a company that has the know-how to manufacture products similar to ours" and save money by leasing buildings and keeping staffing "lean." Mr. Nelson made clear his belief that "Silicon Valley-based venture capital firms" are "abundantly more qualified" to make good investment decisions and that the U.S. government "loan guarantee program should be retired permanently." While Mr. Nelson disagrees with guaranteed loans from DOE, he expressed support for government financing of basic research through the DOE's ARPA-E program.

For more information:

**EDUCATION: HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE EXAMINES STATE SUCCESS IN EXPANDING PARENT AND STUDENT OPTIONS IN K-12 SCHOOLS**

The Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Subcommittee of the House Education and the Workforce Committee held a hearing on May 16, 2012, titled Exploring State Success in Expanding Parent and Student Options.

Witnesses included: The Honorable Kevin Chavous, Senior Advisor, American Federation for Children, Washington, D.C.; Ms. Gwendolyn Eaddy-Samuel, President, Connecticut Parents Union, Meriden, CT; Dr. Maria A. Fletcher, President, New York State PTA, Albany, NY; and, Mr. Todd Ziebarth,
Vice President, State Advocacy and Support, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, Washington, D.C.

Subcommittee Chairman Duncan Hunter (El Cajon) stated the following in his opening remarks: "We know increased parental engagement leads to higher grade point averages, better attendance, improved behavior and social skills, and a stronger interest in more challenging academic programs. Recognizing these positive results, many states are taking steps to ensure parents have additional opportunities to make decisions not only about where their children attend school, but also about what happens during the school day." He expressed support for charter schools, private school scholarship programs for disadvantaged students, and laws such as California's parents' "trigger law," which allows parents to "force change" in schools.

Topics discussed included:
- Benefits of, and the need for, school choice via vouchers, scholarship tax credits, and education savings account programs.
- The use and benefits of public school choice, charter schools, as well as virtual schools, homeschooling, and magnet schools to improving student outcomes.
- Discussion of real-life application of school voucher programs (in New Orleans) and tax credit scholarship programs (Florida).
- Barriers facing parents who attempt to get involved in their child's school, and how "trigger laws" in states like California and Connecticut can overcome these barriers. This is done through increasing transparency and completing other reforms, in addition to the traditional "trigger" aspect, which generally "allows parents to make recommendations about governance changes to reform consistently low-performing schools."
- Cautionary testimony that using school choice to drive parent engagement might be counter productive to the greater ideal: engaging all stakeholders to ensure the neighborhood school is great, thus encouraging parent involvement.
- The demand for charter schools, and the struggle to keep up with that demand. In light of such demand, some states are removing barriers to charter school development, establishment, and funding.


**TRADE: HOUSE COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTS**


The focus of the hearing was the trade policy initiatives of the Administration and their effect on small business exporters. Specifically, the Committee heard from the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on the status of current trade negotiations and the overall strategy to open new markets for United States goods and services. In addition, the Committee received recommendations directly from small businesses on how to increase their exports and create new local jobs.

Witnesses included: Ambassador Miriam Sapiro, Deputy United States Trade Representative, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Washington, DC; Thomas Crafton, President, Thermcraft, Inc., Winston Salem, NC, testifying on behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers; Robert B. Sinner, Partner and President, SB&B Foods, Inc., Casselton, ND, testifying on behalf of the American Soybean Association; Joshua Meltzer, Ph. D, Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Brookings Institution, Washington DC; and, Mark Luden, CEO, The Guitammer Company, Westerville, OH, testifying on behalf of the Consumer Electronics Association.

Topics discussed included:
- The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) efforts under President Obama's National Export Initiative to support small business exports, which account for approximately 98 percent of all U.S. exports.

- U.S. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and how they directly benefit small business exporters – especially manufacturers. FTAs with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama were recently approved in October 2011, bringing the total number of U.S. FTAs to almost twenty.

- Statistics about the relationship between U.S. manufacturing and exports – exports make up approximately 20 percent of U.S. manufacturing production per year.

- The impact of domestic regulatory changes on small businesses that engage in exporting, and the lack of a single centralized source of information detailing U.S. export embargoes.

- The complicated nature of inconsistent international standards and regulations, and the difficulty in obtaining necessary paperwork from the U.S. government, such as the phytosanitary certificates required for some agricultural products.

- The Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations and their implications for U.S. small business exporters. Also, the TPP's potential to lead to a broader Free Trade Agreement of the Asia-Pacific Region (FTAAP) – an end goal that was endorsed by APEC leaders in 2006.

- The importance of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Information Technology Agreement (ITA), and its deficiencies, including the fact that it does not cover consumer electronics (CE), which means CEs are still subject to tariff and non-tariff trade barriers, unlike other products.


**BIOMEDICINE: REPORT EXAMINES U.S. BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS**

On Thursday May 17, 2012, the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation and United for Medical Research held a legislative briefing titled *Leadership in Decline: Assessing U.S. International Competitiveness in Biomedical Research*. The briefing featured the release of a Report benchmarking international competitiveness in biomedical research.

Speakers at the event included: Kevin Yoder, United States Representative, Kansas; Robert D. Atkinson, President, Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, Presenter; Scott P. Bruder, Senior Vice President and Chief Science and Technology Officer, BD, Presenter; Francis S. Collins, Director, National Institutes of Health, Presenter; and, Landon S. King, Vice Dean for Research, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Presenter.

According to the Report, "the United States' leadership position in biomedical research is no longer assured, especially as the governments of an increasing number of countries are investing more in life sciences research as a share of their GDP than the United States." The Report documents the economic impact of public investment in life sciences R&D, quantifying its impact on innovation, employment, and export levels of the U.S. life sciences industry and analyzes what other competitor nations are doing to support life sciences innovation.

The Report also reports on the foundational role public investment plays in underpinning a nation's competitiveness in the life sciences. It assesses the competition for global life sciences leadership through case studies of four countries – the United States, China, the United Kingdom, and Singapore – that illustrate the commitments that competitor nations are making to enhancing their life sciences competitiveness through increased public investments and comprehensive policy reforms. It then assesses countries' performances in the life sciences industries as measured by a variety of indicators, including countries' share of total patents granted in biotechnology and trends in countries' levels of trade balances, employment, and share of global output in the pharmaceutical industry.
To obtain the report, and for more information, go to:

**SOCIAL SERVICES: PPIC RELEASES REPORT ON DEMOGRAPHICS OF CALWORKS RECIPIENTS**

In May 2012, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) released a report on the demographics of families receiving California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORK) welfare assistance. The Report is titled "California's Welfare Recipients: Family Circumstances, Income, and Time on Aid among CalWORKs Families," and was authored by Caroline Danielson.

According to the Report, CalWORKs functions as a "safety net" for low-income families with children, with the aim of increasing parents' ability to earn their way off of CalWORKs while utilizing other assistance programs such as Medi-Cal and CalFresh. Work incentives and penalties are built into the program.

In January, Governor Brown proposed a major restructuring of the program in response to the budget crisis. In light of proposed changes, Ms. Danielson believes that "establishing a framework for a more detailed understanding of families on CalWORKs can provide important, informative background." Therefore, the Report "characterizes typical CalWORKs families, their income sources, parents' hours of work, and the length of time they receive CalWORKs."

Key findings of the Report include:
- The majority of families receiving assistance have parents that are not highly educated and have low incomes. Assistance received through the program makes up a significant portion of their income.
- Many of those receiving assistance do so for a relatively short period of time. Approximately half of the families on CalWORKs have received benefits for less than two years.
- Only about 18 percent of those on CalWORKs have received benefits for more than six years. In addition, longer stays in the program seem to be correlated with families whose parents have greater educational disadvantages (especially the lack of a high school degree).
- "CalWORKs families currently targeted by welfare-to-work services have higher earnings than other groups of parents, but relatively few have part or full time jobs in unsubsidized employment." In other words, CalWORKs does help these parents get into the workforce, but a full time job, especially one that is unsubsidized, is still a "lofty goal" for most.

According to the Report, these findings indicate "that a stint on CalWORKs is comparatively transitory for many, although not all families" and that "policymakers could consider additional means of advancing child well-being and family self-sufficiency for those with long records of CalWORKs assistance."


**HEALTH: CA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION REPORTS ON CALIFORNIA'S SPENDING PER CAPITA**

The California Healthcare Foundation released a report in May 2012 titled Health Care Costs 101: California Addendum (the Addendum) as part of the California Health Care Almanac. According to the Addendum, "health spending represents a significant share of California's economy," but the state "ranked among the lowest in the nation for per-capita health spending in 2009." Per-capita calculations included spending per person and per Medicaid enrollee. Total spending was $230 billion.

Additionally, since reaching a peak growth rate of 9.7 percent in 2003, health care spending growth in California has slowed. In 2009, spending grew at less than half that rate – 4.5 percent, a figure that was on
par with the rest of the nation. The 2009 figure represents the slowest growth rate in Californian health care spending since 1999.

Highlights of the Addendum's findings for 2009 include:
- Health spending in California reached $230 billion, triple 1991 levels.
- California's per-capita spending of $6,238 was the ninth lowest in the nation. By comparison, the US spending per capita was $6,815.
- Health spending accounted for 12.2 percent of California's economy -- a smaller share of the economy than most states or the nation.
- Hospital and physician services continued to account for the majority of spending, totaling 63 percent.
- Medicare and Medicaid accounted for nearly 40 percent of California health spending, up from 27 percent in 1991.

For the Addendum, go to:

For the complete report, a quick reference guide, or data files go to: