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**KENNEDY: A HUGE GAP EXISTS BETWEEN WORDS AND DEEDS WHEN IT COMES
TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA**

Senator Kennedy Responds to President Bush's Speech in New Mexico Today

Washington, D.C.: As President Bush visits Albuquerque, New Mexico to tout his education initiatives, Senator Kennedy, the leading Democrat on the Senate Education, Health and Labor Committee, points to his education track record and questions his credibility. Senator Kennedy gave President Bush the benefit of the doubt and worked with him on No Child Left Behind, only to have the White House break their promise to America's children by underfunding it by \$40 billion.

Now, President Bush is pledging to strengthen our global competitiveness --a goal Senator Kennedy very much supports -- yet the President's record shows consistent cuts to job training, research and development, student aid, and math and science training. For example, about 75,000 students in New Mexico's public K-12 schools live in poverty, yet President Bush's 2006 budget left behind over 26,000 disadvantaged children, denying them the Title I services they were promised and denying 14,000 children the after-school services they qualify for.

Senator Kennedy issued the following statement and below are fact sheets on the President's record:

"When it comes to President Bush's education initiatives, it isn't just a day late and a dollar short -- its five years late and 50 billion dollars short. He has shortchanged our competitiveness, shortchanged our opportunity and shortchanged our future. Sadly, there is a huge gap between the President's words and deeds and it is harming our progress. I would give the President's education proposals a B- on ideas, but an F on follow through, an F on funding and an F on building a foundation for our future.

I hope that this year will be different, but the record is not reassuring. Time and again, our efforts to meet the challenges on education have been blocked by the Administration and the Republican leadership. Last year, I offered an amendment to the President's budget in the Senate that would have added over \$5 billion for education. This amendment would have increased the Pell grant to \$4500, increased funding for 57,000 math and science teachers in high-poverty schools, and increased funding for job training programs and other education priorities. This passed with bipartisan support, but in Conference, the Administration and the Republican leadership dropped every penny. In the budget reconciliation bill, we again secured bipartisan support in the Senate to provide \$6 billion over 5 years for increases in the Pell grant. And again in a backroom deal between the Administration and Republican leadership, that funding was dropped.

To make this country more competitive, I agree with the President that we must increase our focus on math and science education, and I welcome his interest. But it takes more than State of the Union rhetoric to meet this challenge, and that's where he falls short time and again. In his past two budgets, he called for absurd reductions in funding for math and science education programs at the National Science Foundation. Last year he eliminated funding to support technology in the classroom.

Unfortunately, his Administration continues to be the Administration of broken promises and nowhere is that truer than in education, where his No Child Left Behind Act has been starved for funds since he signed it into law in 2002.

The President's fifth State of the Union Address was tacked to his fifth year in office: full of empty

promises, a growing credibility gap, and a failure to acknowledge that without restoring honesty in government and ending the culture of corruption, the special interests will prevail over those of the American people.”

President Bush: Broken Promises on Education Leave Americans Under-prepared for the Global Challenge

- Our ability to compete depends on improving math and science education, yet President Bush’s last two budgets cut funds to train math and science teachers at the National Science Foundation.
- Our ability to compete depends on leaving no child behind, yet President Bush has underfunded the Act by \$40 billion.
- Our ability to compete depends on providing every student the opportunity to go to college. In his campaigns, President Bush pledged to increase the maximum Pell grant to \$5,100, but for the last 4 years it’s been frozen at \$4,050.
- Our ability to compete depends on helping students use technology in the classroom, yet last year President Bush called for the elimination of the federal Educational Technology program.
- Our ability to compete depends on providing workers with job training to enhance their skills in the global market, yet Bush has consistently called for cuts to Workforce Investment programs and Adult Education. Workers need a system that supports and guides workers into new jobs, not “flexible” accounts.
- Our ability to compete depends on investments in research and development to ensure innovations, but last year the NIH, NSF, DOE, USDA, and NASA all saw basic research funding, in real terms, cut below what they had in 2003.

Basic Research Fact Sheet

- * 2006 Federal research and development spending, outside of defense weapons and human space exploration technologies, fell nearly 2 percent after adjusting for inflation.
- * The Department of Energy’s Office of Science R&D portfolio is down 0.4 percent to \$3.3 billion.
- * The National Institutes of Health’s 2006 budget fell for the first time in 36 years.
- * The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s research funding fell 0.4 percent in 2006 to \$2.4 billion.
- * NIH, NSF, DOE, and USDA all have less basic research funding in real terms in 2006 than they had in 2003.
- * Although NASA’s R&D funding climbed 6.2 percent to \$11.4 billion, funding for R&D in all other programs, except for human space vehicles, have seen steep cuts:
 - * Aeronautics research funding is down 3.4%
 - * Earth sciences research funding is down 8.3%
 - * Biological and physical sciences research funding is down 14.4%

* The President's 2006 budget request included \$2.5 billion more in cuts than what was approved by Congress.

* Federal research investment is shrinking as a share of the U.S. economy – federal R&D investment has plateaued at 1.1 percent of U.S. GDP and is expected to decline further to less than 0.4 percent in 2006.

* At the same time fast growing countries like China, Japan, Ireland and S. Korea are increasingly recognizing the immense potential for economic growth from basic research.

* China alone doubled its investment in R&D as a percentage of GDP over the last 10 years – but we increased it by only 34%.

* R&D also leads to greater employment growth as compared to overall private sector employment. From 1994 to 2000, research and development employment grew 5.4% annually, compared with 2.7% in total employment.

President Bush's education track record in New Mexico:

- President Bush's 2006 budget:
 - o Left behind over 26,000 disadvantaged children, denying them the Title I services they were promised.
 - o Eliminated funding for a \$4 million program to support technology in New Mexico classrooms.
 - o Denied after-school services to 14,000 eligible children in New Mexico.
 - o Significantly cut funding to train math and science teachers in New Mexico.
- Last year, nearly all school districts in New Mexico saw cuts in Title I funds.
- Over 39,800 of the 44,000 Pell grant recipients in New Mexico will receive no increase in aid under the new student aid program in the Republican budget.

New Mexico

- 328,000 students in 795 schools – 54% Hispanic, 31% white, 11% Native American, and 2.5% African American
- About 23% of K-12 students in New Mexico live in poverty.
- New Mexico Scholars: This program is a business-led initiative to motivate students to complete rigorous coursework, primarily in math and science, while in high school. The Initiative is managed by the New Mexico Business Roundtable for Educational Excellence in cooperation with local Chambers of Commerce. Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and Bernalillo are the three pilot communities selected for implementation.
- New Mexico has 26 public colleges and universities, educating more than 127,000 students.
- Nearly 44,000 college students in New Mexico receive Pell grants.

Albuquerque Public Schools

- * 87,000 students in 127 schools, divided into 12 clusters.
- * There are 32 magnet schools in the district and 12 of them, including two high schools, are focused on science, math and/or technology.
- * Albuquerque Public School system also has 8 year-round schools.