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Washington, DC – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-5) voted for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill after consideration of the merits and the repercussions of not funding the programs in the bill, despite the severe funding cuts to programs.

“While I am very concerned about the distribution of funding and the funding levels within the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriation Bill, the programs included are too important to vote down the entire bill,” stated Matsui. “Unfortunately, we knew this funding bill was going to have flaws the minute the Republican majority passed this draconian budget resolution earlier this year.”

The Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill includes funding for a wide-range of programs across many government agencies, including the Social Security Administration, Medicare and No Child Left Behind. Because of the constrictive spending limits imposed by the 2006 budget resolution, which Matsui voted against, the bill is \$163 million less than the current level.

The bill does increase funding for the Pell Grant program by \$1 billion over the current level, and increases the maximum grant award. Also seeing an increase in funding are community health centers, the Ryan White AIDS Program, and Head Start.

Continued Matsui, “l was pleased to see a Democratic-led amendment restoring funding for the Corporation for

Public Broadcasting pass with bipartisan support. Being a long-time supporter of public television and radio, this reinstatement of critical dollars was a factor in my ultimate support of the bill.”

On Thursday, June 23, 2005, the House voted 284 to 140 in favor of the Obey Amendment, which would reinstate \$100 million for public television and radio broadcasting next year, reversing a Republican-led plan to cut spending deeply.

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