

## Overall Funding Levels

The Republican Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill, as approved by subcommittee on July 18, provides a total of \$150.0 billion in discretionary budget authority for 2013. That total is \$6.8 billion, or 4.3 percent, less than provided in 2012.

When this bill is combined with cuts enacted in recent years, the loss of purchasing power is dramatic—despite high levels of need and the clear importance of the programs funded in the bill, which include support for local school systems, medical research, health care and disease prevention, job training, college student aid, and the operating expenses of Social Security and Medicare:

- The Republican bill's total is \$13.6 billion less than 2010 and the lowest dollar amount in five years.
- Adjusted for general inflation, the bill's total is 13 percent below 2010, 11 percent below 2004, and the lowest level since 2001. (See attached table and graphs.)

This bill is based on the Ryan budget adopted by the House earlier this year, which abandons the appropriations levels agreed to last year by the House, Senate and President and instead calls for significantly lower totals. While the Labor-HHS-Education bill represents only about 15 percent of overall discretionary appropriations, House Republicans have allocated fully 40 percent of their 2013 appropriations cuts to it.

In contrast to the House Republican bill, the version of the legislation approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee conforms to last year's budget agreement and provides a modest \$2.0 billion (1.3 percent) *increase* above 2012, instead of a \$6.8 billion *cut*.