



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

September 20, 2006

**H.R. 611
Haiti Economic and Infrastructure Reconstruction Act**

*As approved by the House Committee on International Relations
on September 13, 2006*

SUMMARY

H.R. 611 would authorize a program that would provide qualified individuals, especially Haitian-Americans, to assist agencies of the Haitian government in their efforts to improve the nation's physical infrastructure and governmental institutions. The bill also would authorize a program to provide grants to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to establish programs to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and to provide basic health care services. Additionally, H.R. 611 would authorize scholarships for certain qualified Haitian citizens to study in the United States. Finally, the bill would authorize aid to Haiti for literacy programs and to improve the education system.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 611 would cost \$7 million in 2007 and \$44 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. Additionally, CBO estimates that enacting the bill would increase revenues by less than \$500,000 over the 2007-2016 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending.

H.R. 611 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 611 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION					
Economic Assistance					
Estimated Authorization Level	6	6	6	6	6
Estimated Outlays	3	5	6	6	6
Educational Assistance					
Authorization Level	6	6	6	0	0
Estimated Outlays	4	5	6	2	1
Total Changes					
Estimated Authorization Level	12	12	12	6	6
Estimated Outlays	7	10	12	8	7

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For the purpose of this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted near the start of fiscal year 2007, that the amounts necessary to implement the bill will be appropriated for each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for similar programs.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

H.R. 611 would authorize new programs pertaining to economic and infrastructure development as well as educational assistance including scholarships. In total, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$7 million in 2007 and \$44 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Economic Assistance. Title I would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for each year from 2007 through 2012 for two programs relating to economic development and the reconstruction of infrastructure.

The first program would provide qualified individuals to work with the Haitian government to enhance and improve the nation's:

- Domestic and foreign business investment,
- Education system,
- Judiciary and the rule of law,
- Health care system, and
- Infrastructure—especially security at ports to allow ships to load and unload securely.

The second program would provide grants to NGOs that work in cooperation with the Haitian Ministry of Health to deliver basic health care services and work to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The bill recommends that at least \$3 million be spent on each program annually and CBO expects that such funds would be sufficient to meet the purposes of each program. Accordingly, CBO estimates that implementing title I of H.R. 611 would cost \$3 million in 2007 and \$26 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts.

Educational Assistance. Title II would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million a year for 2007, 2008, and 2009 for scholarships and other educational assistance to Haiti. For each of those years, \$2.5 million would be available for scholarships to Haitians who completed their secondary education with distinction but could not afford to attend a college or university in the United States. The remaining funds would be available to provide assistance for literacy programs and basic education as well as to support partnerships between colleges and universities in the United States and educational institutions in Haiti. CBO estimates that implementing those educational assistance programs would cost \$4 million in 2007 and \$18 million over the 2007-2011 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts.

Revenues

Section 204 would direct the President to encourage donations to offset the costs of the scholarship program. Gifts and contributions are classified as revenues in the federal budget. Based on information from other programs that accept gifts and contributions, CBO estimates that revenues would increase by less than \$500,000 over the 2007-2016 period.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 611 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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