



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Robert Gilbert
Communications Manager
Committee for Education Funding
(202) 383-0083
gilbert@cef.org

Thomas Riehle
President
Ipsos-Reid U.S. Public Affairs
(202) 463-7300
thomas.riehle@ipsos-reid.com

ACCORDING TO IPSOS-REID/CEF POLL PUBLIC VIEWS EDUCATION AND DEFENSE AS TOP SPENDING PRIORITIES

Majority of Americans Support Increased Education Spending Even in the Face of Larger Deficit

Between February 1 and February 3, 2002, Ipsos-Reid U.S. Public Affairs interviewed a representative sample of 1,000 adults nationwide by telephone for the Committee for Education Funding. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%

WASHINGTON, DC (February 7, 2002)

According to the latest Ipsos-Reid/CEF Poll, two-thirds (67%) of the American public would accept a larger deficit in order to provide improved education for students from kindergarten through college. This places support for increased education spending just behind spending for the war on terrorism (78%) as deficit expenditures Americans will accept today. The American public offered less support on domestic issues such as increased spending to stimulate the economy (62%) and making permanent tax cuts (39%) when asked whether those spending proposals were acceptable when the budget is in a deficit.

[SEE COMPLETE POLL RESULTS ATTACHED]

About CEF

Founded in 1969, the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a nonprofit and nonpartisan coalition of over 100 organizations reflecting the broad spectrum of the education community, seeks to achieve adequate federal support for the education of our nation's students. Members include education associations, institutions, agencies and organizations whose interests range from preschool to postgraduate education in both the public and private systems. For more information about CEF, please visit our Website at www.cef.org.

Is It Okay To Spend In A Deficit?

The federal budget will run at a deficit over the next year or so. In your opinion, is it okay to **(ITEM)** even if it means a larger deficit?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY YES, IT IS OKAY

ALL ADULTS			
	Yes, It Is Okay	No, It Is Not Okay	Not Sure
Increase spending for the war on terrorism and our nation's military and defense			
2/1-3/02.....	78	21	1
Increase spending on education for students from kindergarten through college			
2/1-3/02.....	67	31	2
Increase spending on steps to stimulate the economy			
2/1-3/02.....	62	35	3
Increase spending on prescription drugs			
2/1-3/02.....	46	52	3
Make permanent the federal tax cuts implemented last year			
2/1-3/02.....	39	57	4

As a general rule, most Americans (60%) are willing to give up the discipline of a balanced budget in order to pay for education programs for students from kindergarten through college.

(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)

Now let me ask you another question. Some people say we should never run a federal budget deficit. Other people say we should allow the federal government to go into deficit now in order to pay for education from kindergarten through college. Which side are you on?

ALL ADULTS	
	<u>2/1-3/02</u>
Never run a deficit	32
Go into deficit to pay for education	60
Not sure	9

More than two-thirds of Americans (70%) support increased federal education spending to achieve goals such as improvements in the education of students from kindergarten through college and to create opportunities for Americans – a comparable number to the 74% who support increased spending in order to win the terrorism war and improve the military.

(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I expect the federal government to behave in a fiscally responsible manner, but if increased spending will improve the education of students from kindergarten through college and create opportunities for Americans, then I'm willing to have the federal government operate at a deficit for the next few years.

	ALL ADULTS
	<u>2/1-3/02</u>
Strongly agree	30
Somewhat agree	41
Somewhat disagree.....	16
Strongly disagree	13
Not sure.....	1
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Total Agree.....	70
Total Disagree.....	29

(ASKED OF HALF THE SAMPLE)

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I expect the federal government to behave in a fiscally responsible manner, but if increased spending will win the war on terrorism and strengthen our military, then I'm willing to have the federal government operate at a deficit for the next few years.

	ALL ADULTS
	<u>2/1-3/02</u>
Strongly agree	45
Somewhat agree	28
Somewhat disagree.....	11
Strongly disagree	15
Not sure.....	1
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Total Agree.....	74
Total Disagree.....	25

To view the latest poll results and research from Ipsos-Reid US Public Affairs please go to:
http://www.ipsos-reid.com/us/media/content/pre_rel.cfm

The survey was conducted by Ipsos-Reid U.S. Public Affairs, the Washington, D.C.-based division of Ipsos-Reid, which is part of the world's fourth largest polling and market research organization, the Ipsos group, based in Paris. Ipsos-Reid U.S. Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective public affairs research organization made up of Democratic and Republican campaign and political polling veterans. It was established in Washington in August 2001, and it is led by Thomas Riehle, who has more than 15 years of experience as a political pollster in Washington.