

Committee on Finance

June 26, 2002

Snowe Amendment #1

(cosponsored by: Jeffords, Bingaman)

Current Law:

Since 1996, TANF dollars can only be spent on benefits for people who are complying with the federally mandated work requirements and who have not hit the federal benefits time limit of 60 months (5 years). Under current law, only one year of vocational education is permitted for a limited percentage of a state's welfare caseload.

The Amendment:

The amendment would allow those states that choose to, to count post secondary and vocational education as an "approved work activity" which then means that those people who are participating in post-secondary education would be eligible for cash assistance, child care subsidies, transportation subsidies, etc., paid for with federal TANF dollars.

This amendment would allow those who are participating in post-secondary or vocational education to count towards the state's work requirements and participation rates. Participation in these educational programs is capped at 10 percent of a state's caseload.

The amendment expressly prohibits the use of TANF dollars to pay for tuition.

