



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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The Honorable Jack Brooks, Chairman
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your request of March 7, 1978, we have the following comments on H.R. 11191, a bill to establish a Department of Education.

Although a Department of Education would provide greater visibility to education matters at the national level, there is no evidence that its creation would improve education across the nation. We believe that improved management of existing programs, stressing coordination of efforts and consolidation of similar program objectives, may achieve most of the same objectives as proposed in H.R. 11191.

We believe that the words "in advance" should be deleted from line 19 on page 11. Since the bill provides for the working capital fund to be established using capital obtained from appropriations and other assets and inventories transferred to it, there should be no need for subsequent reimbursements to the fund to be made in advance. Other working capital funds have been established without a requirement for advance reimbursements. For example, refer to 15 U.S.C. 1521, which established a working capital fund at the Department of Commerce.

Sincerely yours,

B.F. KELLER

Deputy Comptroller General
of the United States