



Thursday, January 18, 2018

Dear CEF Members:

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Government funding ends tomorrow at midnight** – It is looking increasingly likely that Congress will pass the Republican bill that extends government funding until February 16; the bill also reauthorizes the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for 6 years and delays implementation of three Obamacare taxes. The House is scheduled to vote on the bill later today, and almost all Democrats are expected to vote no because the package does not extend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protection for “DREAMers” who could otherwise face deportation this year. While some fiscal conservatives and defense hawks may also vote against the bill, Speaker Ryan today said he was confident it would pass, and the White House this afternoon clarified that President Trump would sign it. Passage in the Senate will require support of some Democrats, and several Democrats up for re-election this year in “red states” are considering supporting the bill. (The [Congressional Budget Office’s cost estimate](#) shows the package in total deepens the deficit by \$31 billion over ten years, but the legislation includes instructions not to add that total to the PAYGO scorecard that tallies the deficit impact of all direct spending and revenue legislation and then triggers a sequester after the end of a two-year session of Congress if the sum is negative.) Stay tuned.
- **25 Senators ask the President for public school construction funding** – Yesterday Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and 23 other Senators (all Democrats) wrote the attached letter to the President supporting investments in the nation’s public school infrastructure as part of any comprehensive infrastructure bill. The letter cites a [2014 Department of Education study](#) that found a need for an investment of \$197 billion to bring all public schools into good condition, and recommends that “the federal government should consider partnering with states on innovative financing mechanisms to help every community ensure that their schools are safe, health, and modern.” The letter cites the economic growth from this investment, noting “that a federal investment in school infrastructure of \$100 billion would yield an estimated 1.8 million jobs.”

II. CEF schedule and activities

- **Mark your calendars for CEF’s membership retreat on January 26** – CEF’s membership retreat on Friday, January 26, is your first of many opportunities to be involved in CEF’s advocacy, research, events, and membership activities this year. We will also hear from guest speaker Chuck Kieffer, Staff Director for the Senate Appropriations Committee Democratic staff. CEF’s new Board meets

tomorrow, and then I'll outline the 2018 strategic plan at the Membership Retreat. After that, everyone will have a chance to join our four committees: Advocacy and Research, Hill Teams, Membership and Bylaws, and the Gala Committee. Each committee will have specific plans based on ongoing efforts and suggestions you made last fall, but we encourage you to join and play a role where you are most interested – we rely on your participation and input to be successful.

- **“Education Budgeting 101” Hill briefing on Monday, January 29** – Our first big event of the year is a Hill briefing for education Legislative Assistants and CEF members covering how the budget and appropriations process works for education programs as well as an overview of how mandatory education spending is changed. We are excited to have a bipartisan panel featuring the House’s two education staffers on the Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee: Karyn Richman and Robin Juliano. We’ll also have an overview of the process from CEF’s Sarah Abernathy, and leave time for Q&A. The briefing is on Monday, January 29, from 10:30-noon in 1334 Longworth House Office Building. Please RSVP [here](#).
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule –**
 - **Tomorrow - Friday, Jan. 19** – NO CEF MEETING
 - **Friday, Jan 26, 9-noon:** CEF Membership retreat at AASCU, 1307 New York Ave, NW. Guest Speaker: Chuck Kieffer, Democratic Staff Director of the Senate Appropriations Committee
 - **Monday, Jan 29, 10:30-noon:** Education Budgeting 101 Hill briefing, 1334 Longworth House Office Building. Presentations from both Democratic and Republican education staffers on the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee: Karyn Richman and Robin Juliano. All CEF members are invited.
 - **Friday, Feb. 2** – NO CEF MEETING
 - **Friday, Feb. 9, 9-11am:** at AASCU, 1307 New York Ave, NW. Guest Speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, Feb. 16, 9-11am:** at AFSCME, 1625 L Street, NW, 1st floor conference room. Guest Speaker: Emily Slack, House Education and Workforce Committee Republican staff

III. Events

- **COE webinar on “How Proposed Changes to TRIO Would Impact Your Institution” on January 23** – CEF member Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) is hosting a webinar entitled “How Proposed Changes to TRIO Would Impact Your Institution” for government relations professionals and other leaders of institutions that host Federal TRIO Programs. The webinar is on Tuesday, January 23, from 2-3:30pm eastern. To register, please visit <http://bit.ly/TRIOPROSPERACT>. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Jones at kimberly.jones@coenet.org or 202-347-7430.

- **ACTE briefing on “Perkins CTE and How Reauthorization Can Improve Programs” on January 23** – CEF member Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), on behalf of the U.S. Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus, is holding a briefing to discuss how reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act could improve CTE programs. The briefing is on Tuesday, January 23, from 3-4pm in 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building. RSVP to Jarrod Nagurka at jnagurka@acteonline.org.
- **CEF’s job board** – Just a reminder that CEF is happy to share your job announcements on the “Job Board” on the part of our website for members only – you can see several current positions listed there now. If you don’t already have a log in for the members area, you can register for one directly on the website. If the email address you use to register does not contain your name or organization name, please email Sarah Abernathy (Abernathy@cef.org) with the information – otherwise, it won’t be recognized to be approved.

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 17, 2018

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Improving our nation's physical infrastructure is the linchpin for growing our economy, securing our communities, and ensuring that we remain competitive globally. Our nation's public schools are critical infrastructure. They are key facilities in almost every community, essential to a competitive economy, and are often one of the largest investments state and local governments make.

Indeed, safe, healthy, modern, well-equipped schools are essential for advancing student achievement and for ensuring that the next generation can achieve the American Dream and meet the economic, social, environmental, and global challenges our nation faces. Yet, too many of the over 50 million students and six million staff who learn and work in our public schools spend their days in facilities that fail to make the grade. A 2014 Department of Education study estimated that it would cost \$197 billion to bring all public schools into "good" condition. An independent review, the *2016 State of Our Schools* report, estimates that we underfund capital investments in our school buildings by \$38 billion *per year*.

To address this crisis, the federal government should consider partnering with states on innovative financing mechanisms to help every community ensure their schools are safe, healthy, and modern, particularly in low-income and rural school districts where the need is often most profound. This is the right thing to do for students, educators, and communities. It is also a smart investment, since it will give a needed boost to our economy by creating local jobs in every community across the country. According to a recent economic analysis, every \$1 billion dollars invested in construction creates nearly 18,000 jobs. That means, for example, that a federal investment in school infrastructure of \$100 billion would yield an estimated 1.8 million jobs.

We believe this investment is an essential piece of a national infrastructure plan and stand ready work to with you to make sure it is a feature of any comprehensive infrastructure bill that makes it to your desk.

Sincerely,


Jack Reed
United States Senator


Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

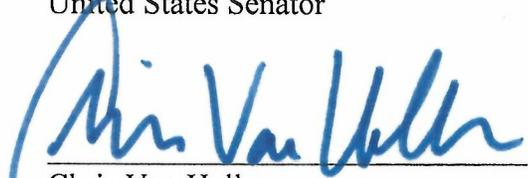

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

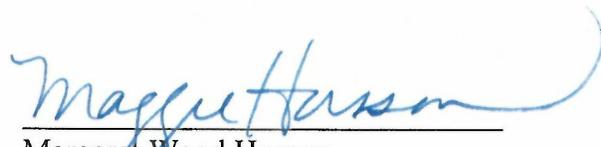

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Patty Murray
United States Senator


Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

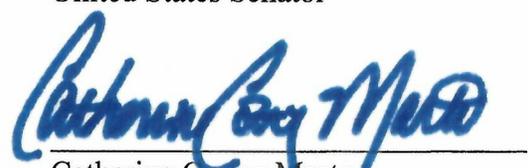

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

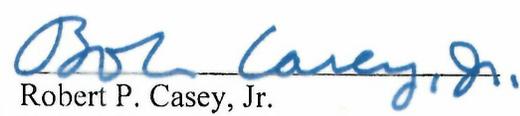

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

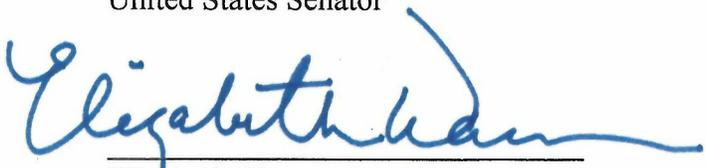

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator


Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

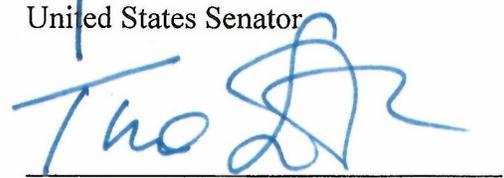

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

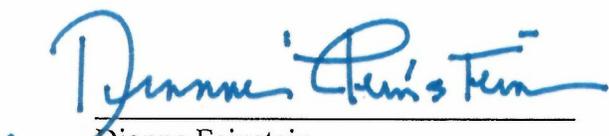

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

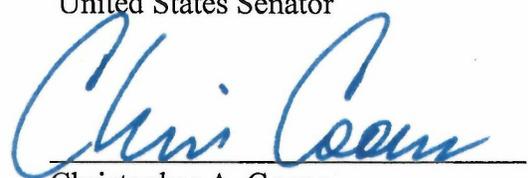

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator


Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator


Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy

Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator