



Monday, March 12, 2018

Dear CEF Members:

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **FY 2018 appropriations status** – Temporary government funding expires in less than two weeks, and Republicans in Congress appear increasingly confident that they will have an omnibus funding bill ready for a vote well before then. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) last week says that it is “possible” the House will vote on the bill later this week, giving the Senate a week to complete action before the March 23 expiration of federal funding. However, House Democrats were not as optimistic that negotiations are that near completion, and there is still not a public statement about how or if several contentious issues have been resolved. As we described last week, unresolved issues involve disagreements about the level of mandatory spending offsets to allow – so-called CHIMPS for Changes in Mandatory Spending – funding for a border wall, and unrelated policy riders, including those dealing with funding for Planned Parenthood, gun control, and immigration. Decisions also need to be made about whether to attach other legislation to this must-pass package, including expiring authorizations.
- **FY 2019 hearings starting in House Appropriations subcommittees** – This week several House Appropriations [subcommittees will hold hearings](#) on the President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget. This includes the Labor-HHS-Education [Subcommittee hearing with HHS Secretary Alex Azar on Thursday, March 15, at 10am](#) in 2362-C Rayburn House Office Building (the hearing will also be webcast). The Subcommittee’s planned hearing with Education Secretary Betsy DeVos on March 20 at 10am has not yet been officially announced, so the schedule may yet change.
- **Follow-up from Friday’s CEF meeting** – Following up on two items that came up on Friday morning:
 - **CBO score for House reauthorization of the Higher Education Act** – We discussed the very detailed [Congressional Budget Office score for H.R. 4508](#), the Republican proposal in the House to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. You can find CEF’s summary in the Update sent on February 9.
 - **Budget deal extends mandatory sequester through FY 2027** – The budget deal – officially the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 – did extend the mandatory sequester an additional two years, through FY 2027, for total net savings of \$35.4 billion.
- **Administration announcements on school safety** – Yesterday the Trump Administration announced several actions designed to improve school safety in the wake of recent school shootings; none of the actions involve additional federal funding. Existing funding within the Justice Department will be used to help states and local law enforcement train school personnel who volunteer to carry firearms as part of an effort to “harden” schools against attacks. In addition, Education Secretary

Betsy DeVos will chair a new commission on school safety that will examine how to stop school violence, including whether to change the minimum age for gun purchases, whether to repeal existing school discipline provisions, and the effects of media coverage of school violence and of video games. The Administration will also support a bipartisan bill to improve background checks for gun purchases and the STOP School Violence Act, which authorizes state-based grants for violence prevention training for students and teachers.

- **Senate HELP Committee vote on confirming ED nominees** – The Senate HELP Committee is scheduled an executive session at 5:45pm tonight to vote on several nominations, including two for the Department of Education: Frank T. Brogan to be assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education, and Mark Schneider to be director of the Institute of Education Science. The Committee held a [hearing on Frank Brogan’s nomination](#) on January 25.
- **CEF’s Job Board** – Don’t forget to check out new announcements at the Job Board in the CEF member area of our website, including a new posting for a Director of Communications at the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools.

II. Advocacy

- **Hill Teams meetings this week** – Hill Teams will be meeting this week with two offices. We have a meeting today (originally scheduled for last week) with Hamilton Bloom and Katie Peake with Senator Shelby (R-AL) – the likely next chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. On Thursday we have a meeting with Katie Morley with Rep. Womack (R-AR), the new chairman of the House Budget Committee. There is still space for that meeting if Hill Teams members wish to sign up.

II. CEF Events

- **Innovation in Higher Education briefing on March 22** – CEF member Knowledge Alliance is sponsoring a briefing with others on how federal policy can support innovative and evidence-based approaches to improving college student outcomes. The briefing, “Innovation in Higher Education: How Data and Evidence Can Improve Student Outcomes,” is on Thursday, March 22, Capitol Visitors Center room SVC 212-210 from 9-10:30am. To register/RSVP, see information [here](#).
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** –
 - **Friday, Mar. 16, 9-11am: Quarterly committee meetings**, at University of California, 1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, auditorium.
 - **Friday, Mar. 23, 9-11am:** at AFSCME, 1625 L Street, NW, 1st floor conference room. Guest Speakers: Eamonn Collins and Mark Ritacco, staff for Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).
 - **Friday, Apr. 13, 9-11am:** at AFT, 555 NJ Ave, NW. Guest speaker: Kate Cassling, Education LA, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV).
 - **Friday, Apr. 20, 9-11am:** at AFSCME, 1625 L ST, NW. Guest speaker: TBD

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



COMMITTEE FOR
EDUCATION FUNDING

1800 M Street, NW
Suite 500 South
Washington, DC 20036
T: 202-327-8125
cohen@cef.org
www.cef.org