



Tuesday, April 3, 2018

Dear CEF Members:

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Appropriations testimony from outside witnesses** – The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee has scheduled a Public Witness Hearing on the President’s 2019 budget for April 26 at 10am (the same time as CEF’s Hill briefing to release our annual budget book). Instructions on requesting to testify or submitting written testimony for the record are [here](#). The deadline to submit written testimony is April 26.

The Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee is accepting written testimony from outside witnesses submitted by June 1. You can find the instructions [here](#).

- **Big picture on budget and spending** – While Congress is on recess, two budget-related topics are percolating that have implications for government spending: a balanced budget constitutional amendment and proposal to rescind already enacted spending. House Republicans are planning to vote this month on a balanced budget constitutional amendment, part of a deal made to win the support of conservatives to pass the budget resolution last fall that contained fast-track procedures for passing the tax cuts. As you can imagine, some Democrats are making charges of hypocrisy over a move to require a balanced budget right after Congress approves a \$1.5 trillion tax cut that dramatically deepened the deficit. Despite the support of the conservative Republican Study Committee and the House Budget Committee chair, an amendment to the Constitution requiring a balanced budget has no chance of being enacted – it requires support of two-thirds of the House and the Senate, followed by three-quarters of all states ratifying it. The last time the House considered a balanced budget amendment was in 2011. For those interested in delving into the topic, there’s a [detailed Congressional Research Service issue brief](#) that provides lots of information about the possible economic effects of requiring a balanced federal budget, the recent congressional history, and the process that would be involved.
- The second spending-related topic with possible implications for education spending is the Administration’s interest in proposing a package of spending rescissions that Congress would have to approve – an act that seems unlikely. The package would contain any number of proposals to cancel specific spending provisions from the recently enacted omnibus appropriations bill. Under the [Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974](#), Congress would have to vote on the proposed rescissions within 45 days or else the spending goes forward as signed into law. This law was originally enacted to limit an Administration’s ability to not spend funding it didn’t want, but now it provides the Administration some power to push back against funding Congress enacted (with the President’s signature) since the line item veto has been ruled unconstitutional.

II. CEF Events

- **NASSP briefing on “Protecting Our Schools From Gun Violence” on April 17** – CEF member the National Association of Secondary School Principals is hosting a briefing on “Protecting Our Schools From Violence” featuring policy recommendations from school leaders who have experienced these tragedies. The breakfast briefing is on Tuesday, April 17, from 8:30am-10am in the Capitol Visitor Center, room HVC-201. Please register [here](#).
- **CEF’s budget book release on Thursday, April 26** – CEF members are invited to a Hill briefing with Congressional education staffers to release our budget book on Thursday, April 26, 10am-noon in 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Working with our Advocacy and Research Committee, we are reaching out to CEF members to help identify education practitioners from across the continuum in our target states to invite to the briefing. More details to follow as we confirm our speakers. Please RSVP to RSVP@cef.org.
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** – As usual, CEF will not hold Friday morning meetings while Congress is in recess. Our upcoming schedule is:
 - **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 speakers: Alex Keenan and Mark Laisch, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Democratic staff.
 - **Thursday, Apr. 26, 10am-noon:** Hill briefing to release CEF’s budget book, 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building.
 - **Friday, Apr. 27:** No CEF meeting.
 - **Friday, May 4:** No CEF meeting (Congress is in recess).

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



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