



Monday, April 9, 2018

Dear CEF Members:

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **House to consider a balanced budget amendment (BBA) to the Constitution this week** – On Thursday, the House is scheduled to vote on a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget, [H.J.Res. 2](#). Starting five years after the BBA is ratified, it requires the President to propose a balanced budget (where outlays do not exceed revenues) each year and also prohibits outlays for a year that exceed that year's revenues unless 60 percent of the House and of the Senate approve the extra funding. The requirement can be waived if the country is at war, but there is no waiver if the economy is in recession and revenues decline while counter-cyclical spending (such as for unemployment insurance, Medicaid, and SNAP) increases. This BBA has huge implications for appropriations and for entitlement spending, as well as the economy. When the issue was last raised in 2016, CEF was one of 273 organizations that signed a [letter to Congress opposing a BBA](#). NDD United, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and others are opposing the BBA again this year. Chances of a constitutional amendment being approved and then ratified are very slim.
- **Just when you thought FY 2018 appropriations was done** – House Majority Leader McCarthy is reportedly working with the Administration on a [package of rescissions from previously approved spending](#). The package could contain any number of proposals to cancel specific spending provisions from the recently enacted omnibus appropriations bill or other legislation, such as disaster relief measures. Under the [Congressional Budget and Impoundment Act of 1974](#), Congress would have to vote to approve the entire package of proposed rescissions within 45 days or else the spending goes forward as signed into law. CQ reports that plan is to have a rescission package ready by next month, and that it could propose rescinding as much as \$50 billion, presumably only from non-defense programs. Democrats are bitterly opposed – saying this would violate the bipartisan agreement Congress made in February to raise non-defense and defense discretionary spending – and Speaker Ryan has not yet made his position clear. A rescission package could pass in the House but would face stronger opposition in the Senate, but it would need only 51 votes to pass. [CEF will track this process and oppose any rescission to education funding](#).
- **Congressional Budget Office (CBO) budget and economic outlook published today** – CBO shared its delayed winter "[Budget and Economic Outlook](#)" today, forecasting bigger deficits than estimated last year (due primarily to the enacted tax cuts and higher spending) but also stronger economic growth. [CBO has not yet published its annual tables on Pell grant costs and spending or its tables on student loan projections of volume and subsidy rates, cost, and interest rates](#).
- **House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee hearings on FY 2019 budget this week** – The House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee is holding a hearing on the

budget for the National Institutes of Health on Wednesday, April 11, at 11am in 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building. The Senate Subcommittee is holding a hearing on the Department of Labor budget request on Thursday, April 12, at 10am in room 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Both hearings will be webcast.

II. CEF Member Events

- **National Library Week events** – It’s National Library Week, and CEF member the American Library Association (ALA) is sponsoring the following two events:
 - **“Fab Lab” demonstration on April 11** - ALA and the DC Public Library are demonstrating how libraries provide the public with access to technologies that are revolutionizing the manufacturing industry and fostering entrepreneurship. Demonstrations of DC Public Library’s Fabrication Lab include 3-D printers and other computer-enabled technology. The event is on Wednesday, April 11, from 1-2:30 at 1420 Longworth House Office Building. Please RSVP [bit.ly/DigitalFab]here.
 - **ALA discussion on tribal and rural broadband internet connectivity on April 12** – ALA is also hosting a lunchtime panel discussion about the Tribal Connect Act (S. 2205) to explore the role libraries have as community institutions that facilitate digital inclusion. Keynote speech by Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) and remarks from FCC Commissioner Mignon Clyburn. The event is on Thursday, April 12, from 11:15am-1pm in the Capitol Visitor Center room SVC 201-00. For information or to register, click [here](#).
- **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](#).
- **ACTE and Advance CTE sign-on letter opposing OCTAE consolidation** – CEF members the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and Advance CTE are circulating an organizational sign-on letter opposing the Department of Education’s plans to consolidate the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE). The deadline to sign-on is Wednesday, April 18 at 5PM ET. Click here to view the letter and sign on, or contact [Jarrod Nagurka](#) at ACTE with any questions.

III. CEF Events

- **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. We are confirming the last two speaker for a panel of education practitioners from across the continuum in our target states to invite to the briefing. As soon as the line-up is finalized we will send out an updated flyer. Please RSVP to RSVP@cef.org.
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** –
 - **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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