



Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Dear CEF Members:

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **CEF in the news** – CEF’s charts, tables, and information show up in the press far and wide.
  - **Detroit News** – [article](#) on April 4 about roadblocks to Education Secretary DeVos’s agenda had a link to CEF’s funding table when outlining how Congress had rejected the Administration’s proposed FY 2018 funding cuts.
  - **Education Week** – [blog post](#) on April 4 about possible rescission package quoted CEF deputy executive director Sarah Abernathy saying “We take any threat to education funding seriously, especially since Congress did fund some programs well above what the administration wanted,” but that “GOP leaders supported the budget that allowed this overall level of funding for non-defense programs.”
- **Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) to resign within weeks** – Rep. Dent, who has been a supporter of education funding and previously served on the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee, said yesterday that he will leave Congress within weeks. He had already announced that he will not run for re-election this year. Rep. Dent is a co-chairman of the moderate “Tuesday Group” of Republicans and chairman of the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee. His impending resignation means more turmoil in Pennsylvania’s congressional delegation, which has already had one special election this year and will have newly drawn districts next year.
- **House Republicans plan to mark up a FY 2019 budget resolution** – New House Budget Committee chairman Steve Womack (R-AR) said the Committee plans to mark up a FY 2019 budget resolution soon, although its prospects for House and Senate passage seem dim. Two of the main reasons for Congress to have a budget resolution conference agreement passed by the House and the Senate are to set discretionary spending limits and to approve fast-track reconciliation procedures for enacting mandatory spending or revenue legislation. However, neither of those goals are in play this year. First, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (aka, the budget deal) already set new, higher caps for defense and non-defense discretionary spending for FY 2019. Second, the Senate leadership has said it wants to pass legislation with bipartisan support rather than rely on reconciliation procedures to pass legislation with only 51 votes. Another reason why a budget resolution may not advance is that some conservative Republicans in the House would not support a budget resolution with large deficits and higher discretionary spending at the new cap levels. So, we’ll have to see how far this process goes.

## II. Advocacy

- **CEF Hill visits** – CEF’s Hill Teams met last week Geoff Browning in Rep. Katherine Clark’s office and will meet next week with Kate Cassling with Senator Manchin’s office. At the meetings we’re thanking

Members for increasing education funding for FY 2018, stating our reasons for opposing a potential package rescinding already enacted spending, and asking for increased education investments for FY 2019.

- Yesterday CEF's leadership met with Claire Sanderson with Assistant Senate Republican Leader John Cornyn (R-TX), who said the Senator is telling people "don't worry about a possible rescission package." That is a very strong sign that if the Administration and House Republicans propose a package of rescissions of existing funding it will not get any traction in the Senate. CEF officers are meeting next week with Reva Price and Patti Ross in Minority Leader Pelosi's office. We've got Hill Teams meeting requests pending with a number of other offices, including Harrison Kajdan, the Education Legislative Assistant for newly sworn in Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), who was appointed to the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee.
- **Sign up for CEF's Hill Day on July 18** – Thanks to those who have already signed up to join CEF's July 18<sup>th</sup> Hill Day. For those who haven't yet, we are hoping to have broad participation that afternoon, and encourage all CEF members to sign up and bring someone else from your organization and any grassroots members who are in town. It will be helpful to get a sense of the number of preliminary commitments to participate as we plan the day – you can sign up at this [link](#).

### III. Events

- **CEF's Hill briefing to release our budget book 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. As you can see from the attached flyer, we have lined up 5 great speakers for a panel of education practitioners from across the continuum in some of our target states – Alabama, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Washington, and West Virginia. I hope everyone will be able to attend. **Please RSVP [here](#) or via email to [RSVP@cef.org](mailto:RSVP@cef.org).**
- **CEF's upcoming schedule** – We have the education staffers from three of the four subcommittees handling education appropriations speaking at our next Friday meetings:
  - **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. See attached flyer and above for details and speakers.
  - **Friday, Apr. 27:** No CEF meeting.
  - **Friday, May 4:** No CEF meeting (Congress is in recess).
  - **Friday, May 11, 9-11am:** at AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW. Guest speaker: Mike Gentile, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Republican staff.
  - **Friday, May 18, 9-11am:** at NEA, 1201 16th ST NW, Chanin Auditorium (B3). Guest speaker: Karyn Richman, House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Republican staff.

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



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EDUCATION FUNDING

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