



Thursday, April 20, 2017

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Dear CEF Members:

I. Advocacy

- **Hill Teams this week** – CEF Hill teams met with staff of five Republican members of the House Appropriations Committee this week, and the news was mostly encouraging. All mentioned that the Administration’s requested cuts for 2017 and 2018 were not going to be a serious starting point for Congressional action. They reported that negotiations on the fiscal year 2017 bills appear to be going well, with no plans for a government shutdown after funding expires on April 28. There may need to be a short continuing resolution if not all funding decisions are made by then, but it would be for days, not weeks. Nobody had final details on programmatic levels, but it seems likely that funding will be close to what was in the House and Senate Appropriations Committee bills last year, with funding for Title IV-A closer to the lower Senate level than to the higher House level. Republican appropriators are apparently having a conference call tomorrow afternoon, so we may see information leak out after that.

Most of the staffers mentioned at least one area of education funding where their boss was interested, which is noted below.

- Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) – wants to fund Every Student Succeeds Act and give it a chance to work, supports year-round Pell grants
- Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) – focus is on National Institutes of Health, but has a good relationship with early education and Head Start in Pennsylvania
- Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL) – she is on Labor-H subcommittee; priorities include Career and Technical Education (CTE) and pre-K education
- Rep. David Joyce (R-OH) - supports CTE, STEM education, and afterschool investments
- Rep. David Valadao (R-OH) – cited particular emphasis on Head Start, minority education, year-round Pell grants, and CTE

II. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Education Department appointees announced** – Education Secretary DeVos has announced a number of political appointees, many of whom served on the transition team. Email addresses for the Department follow the format of “firstname.lastname@ed.gov”
 - **Josh Venable**, Chief of Staff
 - **Ebony Lee**, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy
 - **Dougie Simmons**, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
 - **Robert Eitel**, Senior Counselor to the Secretary
 - **James Manning**, Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary, and Acting Under Secretary
 - **Jason Botel**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education, and Acting Assistant Secretary
 - **Jose Viana**, Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director for the Office of English Language Acquisition, effective April 24
 - **Candice Jackson**, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office for Civil Rights, and Acting Assistant Secretary
 - **Jana Toner**, White House Liaison
- **New Brookings report** – On Monday, the Brookings Institute released a new report titled “The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects.” The report contains a list of consensus statements from a task force comprised of social scientists, answering questions about the effectiveness of pre-K programs. The entire report can be found [here](#), and the consensus statements include the following:
 - Children’s early learning trajectories depend on the quality of their learning experiences not only before and during their pre-k year, but also following the pre-k year;
 - There is often greater improvement for economically disadvantaged children and dual-language learners after a year of pre-k than there is for more advantaged and English-proficient children;
 - Among the effectiveness factors that may make a difference are curricula that build foundational skills, professional development and coaching for teachers, and organized and engaging classrooms;
 - Convincing evidence on the longer-term impacts of contemporary scaled-up pre-K programs on academic outcomes and school progress is sparse, precluding broad conclusions.

III. CEF Administration

- **Lobbying disclosure for the first quarter** – For those CEF members who paid dues in the first quarter of 2017 and need to submit lobbying disclosures, the percentage of those dues that CEF uses for lobbying purposes was 20 percent this quarter.
- **Reminder about CEF 2017 dues** – Many thanks to all of you have already paid your 2017 dues or arranged a plan for payment. We are trying to wrap up the membership

renewal process, so if your organization has not already paid its dues, we would appreciate your doing so as soon as possible. If you need another invoice or have any questions, please contact [Alex Hoffberg](#) or [Sarah Abernathy](#).

IV. Events

- **CEF's schedule for the next month – No meeting tomorrow - Congress is in recess.**
 - **Friday, April 28, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: TBD.
 - **Friday, May 5, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Amy Jones, Director of Education Policy, House Education and the Workforce Committee.
 - **Friday, May 12 – No meeting** (this is a change from the original calendar)
 - **Friday, May 19, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AFSCME, 1625 L ST, NW). Guest speaker: TBD.
- **Room change: Briefing tomorrow on “Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs: Preparing Young People for 21st Century Success”** – The Senate Afterschool Caucus, along with the Afterschool Alliance, YMCA of the USA, the offices of Senator Murkowski and Senator Franken, and a number of other organizations are hosting a congressional staff briefing to highlight the benefits of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. The briefing is Friday, April 21, 1:00-2:15pm in 385 Russell Senate Office Building. RSVP to Austin Hall at AHall@wpllc.net.

My best,

Sheryl

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