



Thursday, June 8, 2017

**Thanks to those who have already sponsored CEF's 2017 Gala!**

**Straight "A"s sponsor:** American Federation of Teachers

**Honor Roll sponsors:** AASA/Consortium for School Networking; ACT; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees; Discovery Education; Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities; National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities; National Council for Community and Education Partnerships; and National PTA/National Association for College Admission Counseling

Dear CEF Members:

## **I. Advocacy**

- **Secretary DeVos's testimony this week** – Education Secretary Betsy DeVos testified before the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday in support of the President's fiscal year 2018 budget. Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO) began his [opening remarks](#) saying "This is a difficult budget to defend." After pointing out that "education funding is 15 percent below the bill we passed just last month" he said that "it is difficult to know whether you made cuts because you believe the programs are truly ineffective or because your budget number required these reductions just to reach the bottom line," and noted that "such a significant cut to the Department's budget is likely untenable." He and other Republicans, as well as Committee Democrats, called out specific education cuts that they think are harmful. The attached 2-page summary highlights key points of the hearing.
- **Hill Teams** – CEF Hill Teams have been meeting with offices of Members on the Appropriations Committees and in Congressional Leadership. We met with 24 offices so far this year – including almost all the Republicans on the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee and half the Republicans on the Senate Committee - and have requests pending with 9 other offices. We will continue this focus, but have also started meeting with other Members who play influential roles in determining congressional strategy and policy. This includes the moderate Republicans who belong to the informal Tuesday Group, and the bipartisan membership of the new [Problem Solvers Caucus](#). There are no official membership lists of these groups, but we have pulled together what we know based on press reports and intel for those two groups plus the members of the conservative Freedom Caucus in the attached spreadsheet, which has tabs listing each group. We are also circling back to Leadership offices now that the FY 2018 funding cycle has begun.

- **CEF “Budget Response” book event on July 13** – CEF will release its much anticipated budget response book at a Hill event on July 13 (10am-noon, Room G11 Dirksen Senate Office Building). We’re excited about capitalizing on all the great work by the many CEF members who wrote articles and edited the material. This year we will use the event to not only distribute this important resource but also to showcase the need for increased investments across the education continuum. The Advocacy and Research Committee is identifying practitioners to talk about the importance of the federal investment to education programs from across the continuum. The speakers are coming from the states of Members we’re targeting (Missouri, Tennessee, West Virginia, New Jersey, and Oklahoma or Kentucky), and we’ll be working to get press attention back in those home state and districts.

## II. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **More Department of Education (ED) appointments** – More hires at ED, some of whom are familiar faces to CEF:
  - **Peter Oppenheim**, Assistant Secretary for Legislation and Congressional Affairs. He leaves the Senate HELP Committee to become only the second person after the Secretary to be nominated for a position that requires Senate confirmation (Carlos Muñoz already has been nominated to be ED’s general counsel).
  - **Adam Kissel**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Higher Education Programs. He has been active in free speech and civil liberties on campus, writing that “[higher education is smothered in intolerance of diverse ideas](#),” and could play a role in considering changes to ED’s past guidance on the standard of proof required in campus disciplinary hearings on campus sexual assault issues.
  - **Kimberly Richey**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. She is that National School Board Association’s interim chief advocacy officer.
- **Budget and appropriations process explained** – If you’d like a short refresher on how the budget and appropriations process works, check out Roll Call’s [clever whiteboard demonstration](#) – and get a catchy tune stuck in your head as a bonus!

## III. CEF News and Calendar

- **CEF Gala 2017!**
  - **Sponsorship** - Big thanks to the early sponsors (listed above) of CEF’s annual gala! Our fundraising and planning is underway for the CEF Gala on October 3. We encourage you to sign up early to be a sponsor. We will run over the details of this fall’s Gala and all the sponsorship opportunities at Friday’s CEF meeting.
  - **Awardee nomination deadline extended to June 23** – Good news - you have more time to nominate someone to receive an award at the Gala. We’ve

extended the deadline for nominations to June 23. Please think about possible awardees who represent any aspect of our members' interests, and who will help draw people to attend the gala. Past [awardees](#) are a bipartisan roster of those who have taken a lead in efforts to provide federal education funding, including Members of Congress from both parties, Administration officials, former staffers, as well as those working outside of government on initiatives that will help students and promote learning. Nominations on the attached form are due to Gala Committee co-chair Kelly Vaillancourt at [kvaillancourt@naspweb.org](mailto:kvaillancourt@naspweb.org) by Friday, June 23, 2017.

- **CEF's upcoming schedule** – Please note that we have canceled Friday meetings originally scheduled for June 30 and July 14, and added a Hill event on Thursday, July 13, for the release of our annual budget response book.
  - **Friday, June 9, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Mike Gentile, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Republican staff
  - **Friday, June 16, 9-11 am:** Quarterly meeting (University of California, 1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, 1st Floor Auditorium)
  - **Friday, June 23, 9-11 am:** CEF meeting (AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Mary Cassell, OMB Education Branch chief, with education staffers
  - **Friday, June 30** – no CEF meeting (this is a change from the original calendar)
  - **Friday, July 7** – no CEF meeting (Congressional recess)
  - **Thursday, July 13, 10am-noon:** Release of CEF's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Analysis book, "Education Matters: Investing in America's Future." Room G11 Dirksen Senate Office Building.
  - **Friday, July 14** – no CEF meeting (this is a change from the original calendar)

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



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**Committee for Education Funding**  
*Gala 2017 Award Nomination Form*

**Deadline Extended: Due by COB on June 23, 2017, to Kelly Vaillancourt**  
Email: [kvaillancourt@naspweb.org](mailto:kvaillancourt@naspweb.org)

Questions? Ask the Gala Committee co-chairs:  
Ally Bernstein ([ally@jbernsteinstrategy.com](mailto:ally@jbernsteinstrategy.com)),  
Noelle Ellerson Ng ([nellerson@aasa.org](mailto:nellerson@aasa.org)), Kelly Vaillancourt ([kvaillancourt@naspweb.org](mailto:kvaillancourt@naspweb.org))

**CEF Member Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Award Nominee (Name & Title):** \_\_\_\_\_

**CEF Award Nomination (please mark one box):**

**Lifetime And Career Awards**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>The Edward M. Kennedy Lifetime Advocacy Award:</b> For demonstrating extraordinary advocacy on behalf of our nation's children and students
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>The Terrell H. Bell Award:</b> For outstanding advocacy of education as a congressional and national priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>The James O'Hara Award:</b> For life-long commitment in support of education and for outstanding leadership in advocating education as a congressional and national priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Richard W. Riley Award:</b> For a career of exemplary support of better education for all

**115<sup>th</sup> Congress Awards**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>The William H. Natcher Award:</b> For distinguished services during this session of Congress in elevating the priority for education funding to ensure better opportunities for our nation's citizens
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Outstanding New Member Award:</b> For demonstrating commitment to our nation's students by advocating education as an investment in the future
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Special Recognition Award:</b> For outstanding dedication to the success of America's students and for making education a national priority

**Citizen and Staff Awards**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Charles Wilson Lee Citizen Service Award</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Staff Recognition Award</b>

**Summary Statement:**

*Please describe why you believe your nominee should receive an award. The Board of Directors will consider this statement in recommending a slate of awardees for approval by CEF's membership. Attach additional sheets if necessary.*

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## **Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies – Review of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Education**

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Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS-Ed Subcommittee

Tuesday, June 6, 2017

Recorded live from Dirksen 124

[Link to Webcast](#)

### **Summary:**

On Tuesday, June 6, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos testified before the Senate Labor-HHS-Ed Subcommittee on the President's fiscal year 2018 budget for the Department of Education. On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Secretary DeVos defended the same budget before the House Labor-HHS-Ed Subcommittee where she drew criticism for the extensive cuts to education programs. Tuesday's hearing featured similarly contentious moments during the question and answer section, as Senators questioned Secretary DeVos on the budget's impact to civil rights and student debt. Secretary DeVos defended the FY2018 budget for granting flexibility to school districts and communities by cutting back on federal oversight.

In his opening remarks, Chairman Roy Blunt (R-MO) acknowledged that Congress will not vote for many of the requested budget cuts. Chairman Blunt specifically condemned cuts to TRIO, Federal Work-Study, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC), and technical and community colleges. Chairman Blunt encouraged Secretary DeVos and the committee members to use the hearing as an opportunity to identify priority programs within the budget, along with those that are duplicative or ineffective. Despite his criticism over cuts to a few select programs, Chairman Blunt praised the budget as an attempt to reduce the role of the federal government in local school districts.

The budget was universally panned by Democrats. Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) criticized the budget for undermining the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). She highlighted specific cuts to programs such as 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, Special Olympics, Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grants, Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants, Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Federal Work-Study, the Pell Grant program, and the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (Title II). In addition, Ranking Member Murray expressed her concern that Secretary DeVos does not understand the role the federal government plays in protecting the civil rights of students in primary and secondary education.

In her testimony, Secretary DeVos defended the budget for promoting school choice, returning autonomy to states and local school districts, and saving taxpayer dollars. Secretary DeVos

stated the budget will save taxpayers \$5.8 billion and will eliminate 22 programs that are “duplicative or ineffective.” She stated that the budget prioritizes grants that promote competition and creativity among students, while servicing the needs of low-income students. The Secretary defended a controversial provision that provides \$1 billion for a new voucher program that will be added to Title I. Secretary DeVos argued the new voucher program, along with cuts to federal programs, gave more flexibility to local schools to meet the needs of their communities.

During the question and answer segment of the hearing, Democrats repeatedly voiced their concern over the budget’s impact on student civil rights, student debt, and for-profit higher education institutions. Ranking Member Murray asked Secretary DeVos if schools receiving vouchers will be required to comply with the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and Secretary DeVos replied “schools that receive federal funds, must follow federal laws.” In addition, Ranking Member Murray asked Secretary DeVos to justify her budgets’ \$578 million cut to Title I-A. Secretary DeVos claimed the budget intends to fully fund Title I and that Ranking Member Murray’s number is based on the final appropriations level Congress passed after the budget had already been completed by the Administration. Ranking Member Murray emphasized that regardless of the origin, the cut to Title I-A would have a real-world impact on public schools.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) criticized the budget’s cuts to Pell grants and Federal Work-Study, and the impact they will have an impact on student debt. He argued that cuts to federal aid programs will require students to take out more loans, further punishing low-income college students. In addition, Sen. Durbin stated that 35% of student loan default originates from students attending for-profit institutions, and he criticized Secretary DeVos for failing to regulate these institutions.

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) lamented the budget’s cuts to Title IV and explained the state of West Virginia does not have the funds to fill the role the federal government plays in education. It should also be noted that Sen. Shelley Capito (R-WV) criticized cuts to 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC, echoing the concerns voiced by Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray in their opening statements.

Republicans were generally supportive of the budget for saving taxpayer dollars and reducing the role of federal government in schools. Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) praised Secretary DeVos for cutting back the enforcement of Title VIII, which he argues grants the federal government an intrusive role in school systems. Sen. Rubio argued student performance is not dictated by funding alone, but is heavily impacted by socioeconomic factors of the students’ environment.

## **Freedom Caucus (compiled by Politico Pro)**

Rep. Amash, Justin (R-MI-3)  
Rep. Babin, Brian (R-TX-36)  
Rep. Barton, Joe (R-TX-6)  
Rep. Biggs, Andy (R-AZ-5)  
Rep. Blum, Rod (R-IA-1)  
Rep. Brat, Dave (R-VA-7)  
Rep. Bridenstine, Jim (R-OK-1)  
Rep. Brooks, Mo (R-AL-5)  
Rep. Buck, Ken (R-CO-4)  
Rep. Davidson, Warren (R-OH-8)  
Rep. DeSantis, Ron (R-FL-6)  
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott (R-TN-4)  
Rep. Duncan, Jeff (R-SC-3)  
Rep. Franks, Trent (R-AZ-8)  
Rep. Garrett, Tom (R-VA-5)  
Rep. Gohmert, Louie (R-TX-1)  
Rep. Gosar, Paul (R-AZ-4)  
Rep. Griffith, Morgan (R-VA-9)  
Rep. Harris, Andy (R-MD-1)  
Rep. Hice, Jody (R-GA-10)  
Rep. Jordan, Jim (R-OH-4)  
Rep. Labrador, Raul (R-ID-1)  
Rep. Meadows, Mark (R-NC-11)  
Rep. Mooney, Alex (R-WV-2)  
Rep. Palmer, Gary (R-AL-6)  
Rep. Pearce, Steve (R-NM-2)  
Rep. Perry, Scott (R-PA-4)  
Rep. Posey, Bill (R-IN-6)  
Rep. Sanford, Mark (R-SC-1)  
Rep. Schweikert, David (R-AZ-6)  
Rep. Weber, Randy (R-TX-14)  
Rep. Yoho, Ted (R-FL-3)

## "Tuesday Group" House Republicans

<b><i>Representative:</i></b>		<b><i>State House Committees</i></b>
Charlie Dent (co-chair)	PA	Appropriations (not on Labor-H)
Elise Stefanik (co-chair)	NY	Ed & Workforce, Armed Services, Intelligence
Susan Brooks	IN	E&C, Ethics
Mike Coffman	CO	Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs
Chris Collins	NY	E&C
Barbara Comstock	VA	House Admin, Science, Transportation
Carlos Curbelo	FL	Ways and Means
Rodney Davis	IL	Agriculture, House Admin, Transportation
Dan Donovan	NY	Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security
John Faso	NY	Agriculture, Budget, Transportation
Brian Fitzpatrick	PA	Foreign Affairs, Homeland, Small Business
Rodney Frelinghuysen	NJ	Appropriations Chair
Bill Johnson	OH	E&C, Budget
David Joyce	OH	Appropriations (not on Labor-H)
John Katko	NY	Homeland Security, Transportation
Adam Kinzinger	IL	E&C, Foreign Affairs
Leonard Lance	NJ	E&C, Ethics
Frank LoBiondo	NJ	Armed Services, Intelligence, Transportation
Tom MacArthur	NJ	Financial Services
David McKinley	WV	E&C
Martha McSally	AZ	Armed Services, Homeland Security
Cathy McMorris Rodgers	WA	E&C
Pat Meehan	PA	W&M, Ethics
Erik Paulsen	MN	Ways and Means
Tom Reed	NY	Ways and Means
David Reichert	WA	Ways and Means
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen	FL	Foreign Affairs, Intelligence
Pat Tiberi	OH	Ways and Means
Mike Turner	OH	Armed Services, Intelligence
Fred Upton	MI	E&C
David Valadao	CA	Appropriations (not on Labor-H)

unofficial list based on ACG staff work

**Problem Solvers Caucus**

Adam Kinzinger (R-IL-16)  
Bill Johnson (R-OH-6)  
Bradley Schneider (D-IL-10)  
Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-8)  
Carlos Curbelo (R-FL-26)  
Charlie Crist (D-FL-13)  
Charlie Dent (R-PA-15)  
Daniel Lipinski (D-IL-3)  
Darren Soto (D-FL-9)  
David Joyce (R-OH-14)  
David Young (R-IA-3)  
Elizabeth Esty (D-CT-5)  
Fred Upton (R-MI-6)  
Glenn Thompson (R-PA-5)  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL-27)  
Jacky Rosen (D-NV-3)  
Jared Polis (D-CO-2)  
Jim Costa (D-CA-16)  
John Katko (R-NY-24)  
Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-5)  
Kurt Schrader (D-OR-5)  
Lynn Jenkins (R-KS-2)  
Mike Coffman (R-CO-6)  
Mike Gallagher (R-WI-8)  
Patrick Meehan (R-PA-7)  
Peter Welch (D-VT-at large)  
Richard Nolan (D-MN-8)  
Ryan Costello (R-PA-6)  
Scott Peters (D-CA-52)  
Stephanie Murphy (D-FL-7)  
Thomas MacArthur (R-NJ-3)  
Thomas Suozzi (D-NY-3)  
Tom O'Halleran (D-AZ-1)  
Tom Reed (R-NY-23)  
Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX-15)

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