



Thursday, June 21, 2018

Dear CEF Members:

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Administration to propose merging Departments of Education and Labor**– As part of a plan to reorganize and streamline federal government agencies, the Administration is expected to announce today its proposal to merge the Departments of Education and Labor. The move is reportedly designed to reduce overlap and to provide vocational training through one agency. Congress would need to vote to approve the change, and in the past, Congress has not approved proposals to eliminate the Department of Education. This proposal is expected to be part of a larger plan that involves changes in many agencies and their missions. Given the gridlock on current Republican proposals to reauthorize the Higher Education Act and the Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act, it seems unlikely that such a huge change in education governance would move smoothly or quickly in Congress, especially in the months before an election when Congress is racing to enact appropriations bills to keep the government running after the current fiscal year ends on September 30.
- **ED's former Budget Service director moves to USDA** – Erica Navarro, who served as the Department of Education's (ED's) Budget Service Director from May 2016 until this spring has been hired to direct the Agriculture Department's budget service. In March, ED reassigned Ms. Navarro to the Office of Civil Rights as part of its own ongoing internal agency reorganization plan, which included dismantling its budget service. Subsequently, when Congress enacted funding for FY 2018, it included language in the omnibus appropriations bill prohibiting ED from dismantling its Budget Service. The FY 2019 funding bill that will be marked up by the House Appropriations Committee next week, continues that prohibition.
- **House FY 2019 budget resolution markup continues today** – The House Budget Committee yesterday began a two-day [mark-up](#) of Chairman Steve Womack's (R-AR) FY 2019 budget resolution (see yesterday's update for a summary of education-related issues). Democrats will be offering a series of amendments today, including [Rep. Barbara Lee's \(D-CA\) amendment to reject the resolution's \\$231 billion in cuts to mandatory spending in the education budget function](#) (the Committee has not yet voted on the amendment). During the "walk-through" where Committee members can ask the majority technical questions about the resolution, Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA)

asked what assumptions were behind that \$231 billion ten-year cut in mandatory spending in the area of the budget that funds education, training, and social services. The staffer said that the budget includes “illustrative options” such as eliminating the Social Services Block Grant (that accounts for \$17 billion in mandatory spending over ten years) and eliminating the mandatory spending for Pell grants in the baseline (that is \$78 billion) and assuming that it is instead provided by discretionary funding - but the budget does not provide any extra discretionary funding to pay for Pell grants, meaning that Congress would need to come up with an extra \$78 billion over ten years, when non-defense discretionary funding is frozen at a very low level for eight of those years. The staffer did not say what policies are assumed to account for the remaining cuts in the education budget function, but we may know more when the Committee releases further information.

- **House Appropriations Committee to mark up FY 2019 Labor-HHS-Education bill on Tuesday** – The House Appropriations Committee has rescheduled its mark-up of the FY 2019 funding bill for the Departments of Labor, HHS, and Education for Tuesday, June 26, at 10am (room TBD). We expect the Committee report to be available on Monday, which will provide more detailed information about the program-level funding in the bill. The Subcommittee bill provides a tiny increase for ED within the bill’s overall freeze in funding. Some ED programs are cut, a few receive increases, and many are frozen at current funding levels. The Senate Appropriations Committee has not yet released its schedule for next week, but we expect its Labor-HHS-Education bill will be marked up in subcommittee on Tuesday, and by the full Committee later in the week.
- **Senate HELP Committee to mark up Perkins CTE reauthorization on Tuesday** – The Senate HELP Committee has rescheduled a [mark-up](#) of a bill to reauthorize the Perkins CTE law for Tuesday, June 26, at 2:30 in 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building. It is not clear yet what bill the Committee will consider – Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) have been trying to produce a bipartisan proposal, but the Chairman said he would go forward with a bill of his own if the negotiations were not successful. The Committee meeting will also include marking up other bills and considering nominations.
- **Administration’s rescission bill fails to advance in the Senate** – The Senate will not consider the Administration’s proposal to rescind about \$15 billion in funding; yesterday the Senate failed to get the necessary votes to bring the proposal to the floor. The 45-day time limit for Congress to consider the rescission package expires this week, so this proposal has no future. The Administration had originally announced its intention to send Congress a series of rescission packages, but that seems less likely now that Congress did not approve one that might be considered less controversial because it did not rescind any funding that Congress had just provided for the current fiscal year under the newly negotiated discretionary caps.

II. Advocacy

- **Reminder: training for CEF’s July 18 Hill Day provided this Friday at tomorrow’s CEF quarterly committee meeting** – If you haven’t lobbied with CEF before (or if interns or new staff in your

organization haven't visited Hill offices before), here's your chance to learn how! At this Friday's quarterly committee meeting, Hill Teams will provide an orientation to lobbying for CEF from 10-10:30 in the committee breakout session, and we encourage you to bring anyone in your organization who might join in CEF's July 18 Hill day, or who would otherwise benefit from a primer on what to say and do in a meeting with an education Hill staff, how to prepare, and what to expect.

- **July 18 CEF Hill day** – We are hoping for broad participation by CEF members and their networks in our Hill Day on July 18 – if you haven't already, please sign up [here](#) if you, others in your organization, or any of your grassroots membership would like to join a Hill lobbying team that afternoon. We'll get everyone together at 1pm in 1334 Longworth House Office Building to provide an overview of what CEF is asking for, distribute CEF t-shirts to wear and CEF bags to carry with our advocacy materials, put people in their lobbying groups, and then head off to meetings that CEF is setting up for that afternoon. (If you're interested, we provided all details in the Update on June 12.)

III. Events

- **CEF's upcoming schedule** –
 - **Friday, June 22, 9-11am:** Quarterly Committee meetings at University of California, 1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW. Guest speaker: Brad Middleton, Education LA, Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) – note that the speaker is coming at 9:30am, and committees will meet from 10-11am.
 - **Friday, June 29, 9-11am:** at AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW. Guest speaker: Robin Juliano, House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Democratic staff.
 - **Friday, July 6:** No CEF meeting (Congress is in recess).
 - **Friday, July 13, 9-11am:** at AASCU, 1307 NY Ave, NW. Guest speaker: Rebecca Howard, LA, Senator Doug Jones (D-AL).
 - **Wed., July 18, 1pm-5pm:** CEF Hill Day.
 - **Friday, July 20, 9-11am:** at AFSCME, 1625 L ST, NW, conference room. Guest speaker: Lakeisha Steele, LA, Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR).
 - **Friday, July 27, 9-11am:** at AFSCME, 1625 L ST, NW, conference room. Guest speaker: Moira Lenehan-Razzuri, LA, Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI).
 - **Friday, August 3, 9-11am:** location TBD. Guest speaker: Vincent Sarubbi, LA, Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ).

My best,

Sheryl

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