



Tuesday, July 11, 2017

Dear CEF Members:

## I. Labor-HHS-Education funding bill for fiscal year (FY) 2018

- **Labor-HHS-Education funding bill mark-up on Thursday afternoon** – The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education is marking up its fiscal year 2018 funding bill on Thursday, 4:30pm, room 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building. Stories and leaks about the bill are beginning to circulate, but from what I've heard, not all the things being reported are correct. Politico says the bill cuts overall funding by more than \$3 billion, others are hearing that funding is cut by \$2.2 billion below last year's levels, and the rumor had been that it would be cut by \$5 billion. We will let you know anything we can confirm as soon as possible.
- Tomorrow afternoon the Appropriations Committee will release the draft bill 24 hours in advance of the subcommittee mark-up. However, the bill will not include the all-important funding table that shows funding for each program; the text just has totals for each account, not each program. In fact, it's hard to get the full picture of what the bill means for education funding without knowing a number of different items:
  - **302(b) allocation** - this is the net spending allocation the Appropriations chairman gives to each subcommittee. The total of all 12 302(b) allocations is the Committee's 302(a) allocation (these names refer to sections of budget law defining them, but are commonly used in describing the levels). The Budget Control Act of 2011 set a cap under sequestration for defense and for nondefense discretionary (NDD) funding that add up to the 302(a) limit unless Congress chooses to change one or both of these caps – which Republican Leadership has indicated it intends to do, but has not agreed on the levels. House Budget Committee chair Diane Black (R-TN) has proposed cutting NDD by \$5 billion below the 2018 cap and raising defense by \$73 billion, but has not yet put forward a budget resolution.
  - **CHIMPS** – such a great budget acronym, which stands for Changes In Mandatory Programs. The Appropriations Committee can cut spending on certain mandatory programs in its jurisdiction (making a CHIMP) and then use those savings to pay for discretionary increases elsewhere. The

budget resolution has capped CHIMPS, and the cap for FY 2018 is \$2 billion below the 2017 level, meaning that Congress is short \$2 billion it had been using to supplement discretionary funding.

- **Rescissions** – Last year Congress rescinded \$1.31 billion of previously appropriated Pell grant funding, which didn't show up in the FY 2017 table for the bill but which affects education resources available to students in the long term. The President's FY 2018 budget includes another large rescission of Pell grant funding -- \$3.9 billion. If the Labor-HHS-Education bill includes a rescission of Pell grant funding, that total may or may not be discussed as part of the funding provided for education programs. (The Congressional Budget Office will score any rescission of prior year funding as savings in FY 2018, which then offsets other discretionary funding in the bill.) If the bill rescinds previously appropriated Pell grant funding and uses it for other education spending this year, I would not consider that an increase for education, regardless of how the Appropriations Committee press release describes it.

As usual, the Labor-HHS-Education bill is the last of the 12 government funding bills to be marked up (the State-Foreign Operations bill is being marked up in subcommittee earlier on Thursday). This puts the House on schedule to consider 5 bills in the full Appropriations Committee next week and bring have brought all to the House floor by the end of the following week, right before Congress recesses for all of August. The Senate has not yet started marking up funding bills.

## II. Budget Book Event on Thursday

- **Reminder – Budget Book event this Thursday** – We've got a great crowd and wonderful speakers for CEF's event on July 13, 10am-noon, in room G11 Dirksen Senate Office Building - the attached flyer includes all the specifics. If you haven't already, please RSVP to Janet Nice at [Nice@cef.org](mailto:Nice@cef.org).
- **Budget books and 2017 CEF Directory available tomorrow** – Local CEF members can pick up your budget book and directory at the ACG offices starting tomorrow, July 12. We are at 1800 M Street, NW, Suite 500 South Tower, Washington, DC 20036. If you know when you're going to come, please email Janet at [Nice@cef.org](mailto:Nice@cef.org) in advance and we'll have your name at the lobby desk (otherwise, the officer can call up to provide clearance for the elevator).
- **Your help delivering Budget Books to Hill offices** – Thank you to all who have already signed up to deliver the budget books and CEF directories to targeted Hill offices after our event on Thursday. If you can deliver some of the materials to a few House offices, please sign up at the link below – remaining assignments involve no more than 7 offices and are organized by building and floor:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ysJu15nyoeR8CVv50mayqGRFVknoXVg3CUyPW89q89w/edit?usp=sharing>

### III. Other Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **No FY 2018 budget resolution this week** – The House Budget Committee is still working to craft a FY 2018 budget resolution that a majority of Republicans will approve. The competing interests are to balance desires to cut NDD spending, increase defense spending, use reconciliation procedures to speed passage of mandatory spending cuts and tax reforms, and do so in a way that doesn't jeopardize their ability to get accomplish all their goals. It's now possible that the Budget Committee will mark up a resolution next week, on July 19, but apparently not this week.

- Sarah

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## You're Invited!

### The Release of CEF's

### "EDUCATION MATTERS: Investing in America's Future"

#### Speakers include:

- Phyllis Wolfram, Executive Director of Special Programs for Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, MO, and President-Elect, Council of Administrators of Special Education
- Deborah Akers, Superintendent, Mercer County Schools, Mercer County, WV
- Heather Boutell, Director of Financial Aid, Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY
- Jan McKeel, Executive Director, South Central TN Workforce Alliance, Spring Hill, TN
- Rose Acerra, President, New Jersey PTA

Thursday, July 13, 2017

10 am - noon

Room G11 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Please RSVP to Janet Nice at [nice@cef.org](mailto:nice@cef.org)

The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of 120 national education associations and institutions from preschool to postgraduate education, invites you to the release of our annual analysis of the President's Budget and federal funding for education.

Education Matters provides extremely useful information on the need to invest in education, details on federal education programs, and how these vital programs improve the lives of millions of Americans and benefit the economy.

Please join us to find out more about how the President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget would affect education programs and the lives of the students and educators they benefit.

