



Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Dear CEF Members:

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **What's happening with FY 2018 funding** – It's the second week of January -- more than three months into fiscal year (FY) 2018 – and we still don't know how Congress will resolve the impasse over 2018 government funding. Below is a list of unresolved issues and timetables:
 - **Setting new caps for defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding** – The main stumbling block has been the sequester-level caps for defense and NDD funding for FY 2018, which are too low. Republicans want to increase defense spending by at least \$54 billion – the amount of the defense sequester – and Democrats insist on retaining parity with the non-defense sequester and providing the same increase for NDD. Past deals to increase the caps have covered two fiscal years, so this deal is likely to raise caps for FY 2018 and FY 2019. There have been various rumors about how much caps would be raised, with around \$200 billion (about \$50 billion each year for defense and for NDD) the highest level we've heard. Past budget deals have offset the discretionary increases with cuts in mandatory spending, but it's not clear what the offsets might be this year.
 - **DACA and border wall funding** – Democrats insist they will not support a deal unless it also extends the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals protection for “DREAMers” who could otherwise face deportation this year. The President has said he will not include coverage for DREAMers unless Congress also includes new funding to build a border wall with Mexico; over the weekend, the [press reported](#) on the Customs and Border Protection request for \$18 billion over ten years for a wall, plus another \$15 billion for technology, roads, and personnel. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) said that disagreements over resolving DACA would not lead to a government shutdown, that if there was no agreement about DREAMers and border security, perhaps DACA could be extended for one year.
 - **Other pressing issues** – There are expiring authorizations that Congress could put in a package with a budget deal or an omnibus appropriations package, including the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, among others.
 - **Friday, January 19** – expiration of the continuing resolution (CR) that is funding government operations at 2017 levels. It is the third CR since the beginning of the fiscal year.

- **At least three weeks** – the time it will take appropriators to create an omnibus package of spending bills once new discretionary caps are set. Thus, Congress will need to pass at least one more CR before enacting full-year government funding. Senator Shelby (R-AL) said that the next CR might run until late February. That next CR could be the vehicle for a budget deal covering the issues above, if one is reached by January 19.
- **Monday, February 5** – the statutory deadline for the President to submit his FY 2019 budget. However, there is no penalty for missing this deadline and it has often been missed when there was a delay in enacting the previous year’s funding and when the Administration wants to update its economic forecast because of recently enacted changes (such as the December tax reform bill).
- **End of February** – the date by which Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has reportedly asked Congress to the debt limit. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the government will be able to maintain its borrowing authority with so-called extra-ordinary measures (which are employed whenever the debt ceiling is reached) through March or early April. It’s possible that Congress will include an increase in the debt ceiling in the omnibus appropriations bill.
- **Vote on new House Budget Committee chair today** – The Republican Steering Committee meets today to vote on a replacement for Rep. Diane Black (R-TN) to serve as chair of the House Budget Committee. Those vying for the seat are Reps. Steve Womack (R-AR), Rob Woodall (R-GA), and Bill Johnson (R-OH)
- **3 ED nominees and 1 new ED appointment** – The Senate HELP Committee will vote on Thursday on a number of Administration nominees, including three for the Department of Education: Mitchell Zais to be Deputy Secretary and James Blew to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (they require a second Committee vote as their nominations did not get a Senate floor vote last year), and Kenneth Marcus to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. The time for the Committee meeting is not yet set but will be livestreamed here. In addition, last week the Administration announced the appointment of James Lynn Woodworth to be Commissioner of Education Statistics.

II. CEF schedule and activities

- **“Education Budgeting 101” Hill briefing on Monday, January 29** – Our first big event of the year is a Hill briefing for education Legislative Assistants and CEF members covering how the budget and appropriations process works for education programs as well as an overview of how mandatory education spending is changed. We are excited to have a bipartisan panel featuring the House’s two education staffers on the Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee: Karyn Richman and Robin Juliano. We’ll also have an overview of the process from CEF’s own Sarah Abernathy, and leave time for Q&A. It’s possible by the end of the month we will have more clarity on the process for winding up the FY 2018 process and starting the FY 2019 budget process. The briefing is on Monday, January 29, from 10:30-noon in 1334 Longworth House Office Building.
- **Mark your calendars for CEF’s membership retreat on January 26** – CEF’s membership retreat on Friday, January 26, is your first of many opportunities to be involved in CEF’s advocacy, research,

events, and membership activities this year. The new Board will be meeting on January 19, and then I'll outline the 2018 strategic plan at the Membership Retreat. After that, everyone will have a chance to join our four committees: Advocacy and Research, Hill Teams, Membership and Bylaws, and the Gala Committee. Each committee will have specific plans based on ongoing efforts and suggestions you made last fall, but we encourage you to join and play a role where you are most interested – we rely on your participation and input to be successful.

- **CEF's upcoming schedule –**

- **Friday, Jan. 12, 9-11am:** at AFT, 555 New Jersey Ave, NW. Guest Speaker: Jacqué Chevalier, House Education and Workforce Committee Democratic staff
- **Friday, Jan. 19 – NO CEF MEETING**
- **Friday, Jan 26, 9-noon:** CEF Membership retreat at AASCU, 1307 New York Ave, NW.
- **Monday, Jan 29, 10:30-noon:** Education Budgeting 101 Hill briefing, 1334 Longworth House Office Building. Presentations from both Democratic and Republican education staffers on the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee: Karyn Richman and Robin Juliano. All CEF members are invited.
- **Friday, Feb. 2 – NO CEF MEETING**
- **Friday, Feb. 9, 9-11am:** at AASCU, 1307 New York Ave, NW. Guest Speaker TBD.
- **Friday, Feb. 16, 9-11am:** at AFSCME, 1625 L Street, NW, 1st floor conference room. Guest Speaker: Emily Slack, House Education and Workforce Committee Republican staff

My best,

Sheryl

Sheryl V. Cohen, Executive Director



1800 M Street, NW
Suite 500 South
Washington, DC 20036
T: 202-327-8125
cohen@cef.org
www.cef.org