



Wednesday, January 2, 2019

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Status of Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 funding still to be finalized** – The 116th Congress will be sworn in tomorrow and will immediately turn to finding a solution to reopen the parts of the government that shut down on December 22 when their temporary funding expired. The grid below shows the status of the 12 fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations bills; five of them – including the one providing education funding – have already been signed into law and provide funding for their programs through the end of fiscal year 2019. The Senate has passed bipartisan versions of four of the remaining seven bills, and the Senate Appropriations Committee approved bipartisan versions of the other three bills but they did not advance to the Senate floor. The House has approved Republican versions of two of the seven bills, and the House Appropriations Committee approved the other five without advancing them to the floor.
 - **Democratic plan** – Incoming House Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Schumer (D-NY) announced their plan to bring up two funding bills: an extension of current funding levels for the Homeland Security bill that lasts until February 8, and a measure that includes the Senate’s full-year funding versions of the other six bills. President Trump opposes any proposals that do not include the \$5.7 billion for a border wall that the Republican House passed in late December – something not included in the Democratic proposal. Senate Majority Leader McConnell (R-KY) has said he will not hold a vote on a proposal that the President will not sign, seemingly dooming Senate approval of this plan.
 - **President meeting with Congressional leaders** – President Trump invited House and Senate leaders from both parties to meet with him this afternoon to discuss border security. Democrats do not appear hopeful that the meeting will lead to a resolution of the shutdown affecting parts of the government, now in its 12th day.

FY 2019 Appropriations Bills Status					
		House		Senate	
	<i>Enacted</i>	<i>House Committee only</i>	<i>House Floor</i>	<i>Senate Committee only</i>	<i>Senate Floor</i>
Agriculture		16-May			1-Aug
Commerce, Justice, Science		17-May		14-Jun	
Defense	28-Sep				
Energy and Water	13-Sep				
Financial Services			19-Jul		1-Aug
Homeland Security		25-Jul		21-Jun	
Interior and Environment			19-Jul		1-Aug
Labor, HHS, Education	28-Sep				
Legislative Branch	13-Sep				
Military Construction, VA	13-Sep				
State, Foreign Operations		20-Jun		21-Jun	
Transportation, HUD		23-May			1-Aug

- **Information on the new Congress** – On Friday, House Democrats are scheduled to begin the process of filling out committee memberships, starting with approving new Chairs, appointing returning Committee members, and then making new assignments, including the many new Members of Congress. They will start with the “exclusive” committees (those whose members, with few exceptions, cannot serve on other committees): Appropriations, Rules, Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Financial Services. It will likely take a week or two before all committees have all their members.
 - **List of new members, addresses, and assignments** – We are compiling and will share a list of new Members of Congress and their offices. We’ll update it with the committee assignments once they are settled.
 - **House Rules package** – Speaker-designate Pelosi and incoming House Rules Committee Chair McGovern (D-MA) today released their [rules for the 116th Congress](#) (link includes a summary and a section-by-section descriptions). Among other changes, the rules change the name of the Committee on Education and the Workforce back to the Committee on Education and Labor. They allow amendments to appropriations bills on the House floor that add spending without an offsetting cut, as long as the amendment would not cause the bill to exceed its allocation. The rules also require legislative text to be publicly available for 72 hours before a House vote. Some liberal Democrats are publically opposing one change, which reinstates a modified pay-as-you-go point of order that requires legislation making changes to revenues or mandatory spending to not increase the deficit over specified years. Instead of this “PAYGO” rule, Republicans had a “cutgo” rule that required offsets only for mandatory spending increases, not tax cuts (neither rule applies to discretionary spending). The House can – and often does – waive its rules, but there is a separate [PAYGO statute](#) that leads to

automatic sequestration if the total costs of the mandatory spending and revenue bills enacted during that congressional session are not offset.

II. Advocacy

- **POLITICO/Harvard poll shows strong support for federal K-12 education funding** – A new poll by POLITICO and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found a strong majority of both Republicans and Democrats list increasing federal spending on public elementary and secondary education as a top priority. A total of 73 percent of respondents listed higher K-12 education funding as “extremely important,” breaking down to 84% of the Democrats polled and 71 percent of Republicans. We will highlight this updated finding in our advocacy efforts.
- **Plans for the Hill meetings** – We are creating some new handouts describing CEF, its advocacy and information resources, and updating our fact sheets for Members of Congress. We’ll soon start requesting Hill meetings beginning with those on the Appropriations Committees and education authorizing committees, as well as the new Members of Congress. We will email those who signed up for Hill Teams to invite participation once meetings are scheduled. As a reminder, CEF starts our various committees anew each year, and that will happen will at our membership retreat on Friday, January 25 – a great time to join all the committees that interest you, including the newly merged Advocacy and Hill Teams!

III. Events

- **CEF’s upcoming schedule –**
 - **Friday, Jan. 4: NO MEETING.** This is a change from the original schedule.
 - **Friday, Jan. 11,** 9-11am, at University of California (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, auditorium). Guest speaker: Armita Pedramrazi, Education LA for Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), the likely Chair of the 116th Congress’s Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development.
 - **Friday, Jan. 18,** 9-11am, at AFT (555 New Jersey Ave, NW, 4th floor). Guest speaker: TBD
 - **Friday, Jan. 25,** 9-11:30am, Membership retreat/first quarterly committee meeting, at University of California (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, auditorium). Please try to attend – this is your opportunity to help shape CEF’s plans for 2019 and join any and all committees.
 - **Tuesday, Jan. 29,** 4-6pm, CEF Capitol Hill reception for the 116th Congress. Stay tuned for details.

My best,

Sheryl

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