



Tuesday, January 4, 2022 – Happy New Year!

I. Policy Intelligence

- **Education funding update** – It's a new year with hope for happier and healthier times, but the congressional outlook hasn't changed much since last year. For those who took a break, here's a quick summary of the education funding-related opportunities and obstacles for the second session of the 117th Congress.
 - **Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations** – The government is operating on an extension of FY 2021 funding that lasts until February 18. Last summer the House passed its FY 2022 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill with historic increases for education (a 41% increase for Department of Education programs, as well as increases for education programs in other agencies). In the fall, the Senate Appropriations Committee released a draft bill that had still historic but smaller education funding increases (primarily a smaller increase for Title I, with some programs getting more than in the House bill). There was no further movement to enact FY 2022 funding, but the chairs and ranking members of both Appropriations Committees have met to try to agree on both overall levels for defense and non-defense funding, and on whether to include any policy changes on issues that could jeopardize support for the bill (primarily on abortion-related issues). While there is no agreement yet, in mid-December Senate leaders seemed more optimistic than they had a month before. My best guess is that there will reach an agreement to provide more defense funding than the House or Senate bills did, with an offsetting cut to non-defense funding, and that there will be an omnibus appropriations package in February or a little later that has a huge increase for education but less than in either of the two bills we have seen so far.
 - **Build Back Better Act** – Ah, the FY 2022 reconciliation bill that has gone through so much turmoil and change and is still in limbo in the Senate. The FY 2022 budget resolution contained reconciliation instructions to about a dozen committees in the House and in the Senate to produce legislation that could increase spending over many years, with most of the cost offset by increases in revenue. A reconciliation bill cannot be filibustered in the Senate so needs only 50 votes to pass – but that means every single Democratic Senator must support this bill since Republicans have said they will not vote for it. The House passed its bill with multi-year funding for a range of education programs, including universal pre-K, child care, educator development, a \$550 increase in the maximum Pell grant, other student and institutional aid, career technical and adult education, workforce development, and distance learning (the CEF Update of 12.20.21 has a side-by-side comparison of the education provisions in the House and Senate bills). That House bill was already pared back from what House committees originally proposed – funding for school construction was eliminated and funding for most other education programs was cut significantly – in an effort to satisfy concerns about the size and scope of the bill. In December, Senate committees released their proposals that were even further pared back. For education, the Senate version

closely tracked the House bill. Right before Christmas, Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) said he would not support the Senate's version, citing concern about the cost of continuing all the bill's provisions for ten years; as drafted, many provisions – including education provisions – end after several years of funding. My best guess is that Senate leaders will salvage some parts of the reconciliation bill and pass something significantly smaller in February, and then send that back to the House for final approval before it goes to the President to sign into law. That means we need to continue to urge Congress to keep education investments in the reconciliation bill.

- **Congressional update** – This week the House is not in session but the Senate is, although the snow-related delays, memorializing former Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, and marking the anniversary of January 6 will likely fill much of the week. The Senate is going to address voting rights before turning to anything else, so I don't expect public action on either appropriations or the Build Back Better Act this week. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) yesterday [wrote](#) to his colleagues to lay out the agenda for the next couple of weeks.

II. Advocacy

- **Sample tweet urging Congress to support education funding increases** – Each week CEF is providing a sample tweet that our members can use or can adapt to focus on funding for specific education programs. The following sample tweet could be sent with the attached graphic (“2022 could be historic for education funding – 10.19.21”):
 - Education is a priority. Congress is considering 2 ways to increase these vital investments. Urge your Members of Congress to support education investments for FY 2022 and in the Build Back Better Act. Follow [@edfunding](#) and use CEF's toolkit at <https://cef.org/advocacy/5%c2%a2-makes-sense-updated/>

III. CEF coalition action items

- **CEF Job Board** – Don't forget to check the Job Board on the member-only page of the CEF website for openings (or send us yours to add to the Job Board). The newest listing posted there is:
 - **Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities** – [Government Relations Coordinator](#)
- **Reminder: it's time to renew your CEF membership for 2022** – One quarter of CEF members have already renewed their CEF membership for 2022 – thank you! The stronger we are, the more impact CEF can have towards the goal of increasing the federal investment in education. The 2022 membership renewal form is on CEF's website [here](#) and is due by February 11. The renewal form is also an opportunity to tell us who you in your organization should receive the CEF Updates and to revise your description for CEF's 2022 membership directory. Dues can be paid by check, credit card, or through the member page of the CEF website.
- **Reminder: please submit your advocacy events to highlight on social media this year** – As part of CEF's advocacy on social media we highlight our members' advocacy initiatives or events, designating a “CEF Member of the Week” on Twitter and Instagram. We are asking CEF members to submit information on your events – advocacy days/weeks, conferences, briefings, presentations – at [this link](#). We will be in touch with you as we get close to your

event to get your approved material - language and images – that we can use and then link to your own sites.

IV. Events

- **CEF's upcoming schedule -**
- **Friday, January 7** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Ashling Kelly Preston, Senator Tim Scott (R-SC).
- **Friday, January 14** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
- **Friday, January 21** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom quarterly committee meeting](#). This is a chance for each committee to work on its agenda for the year, and for CEF members to learn more about which committee(s) they might like to join.
- **Friday, January 28** – no CEF meeting.
- **Friday, February 4** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
- **Friday, February 11** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Rashage Green, House Education and Labor Committee Democratic staff.