



Wednesday, October 23, 2019

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senate starts debate on FY 2020 appropriations package** – Today the Senate starts debate on its first fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations package – more than three weeks after the start of the fiscal year and with four weeks remaining before the extension of government funding expires on November 21. The package contains four bills that were included in a five-bill package the House passed on June 25: the Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, Interior and Environment, and Transportation-HUD bills, but not the Military Construction-VA bill. The Senate will substitute the versions of the bills that the Senate Appropriations Committee easily passed in September, and the package is expected to pass. However, until the House and Senate negotiate common allocations for the 12 government funding bills – the “302(b) allocations,” the package won’t go any further. House Appropriations Committee chair Nita Lowey (D-NY) said the House won’t start conferencing any bills until the two chambers first agree on how much funding to provide for each bill, and Senate Appropriations Committee chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) said that won’t happen until this package is passed, at the earliest. As a reminder, the House passed its version of 10 of the 12 bills before the enactment of a budget deal that raised the defense and non-defense discretionary spending caps, and the House bills assumed higher spending levels than were eventually enacted. That makes it likely that House levels will come down, but Democrats are insisting that some of the Senate allocations – which total to the levels in the budget deal – are adjusted. Those adjustments include an increase for the Labor-HHS-Education bill, which is virtually frozen at the FY 2019 level despite an overall \$27 billion increase in cap for non-defense discretionary funding.
- **Next up in the Senate: Defense and Labor-HHS-Education** – Yesterday Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said that after concluding work on the first package of four appropriations bills, the Senate will bring up a package consisting of the Defense and Labor-HHS-Education bill. The Senate Appropriations Committee has taken no action on the education funding bill yet because of disagreements about its funding allocation and whether abortion policy amendments that Democrats wanted to offer are so-called “poison pill policy riders” that both sides had agreed to avoid. Democrats do not want to vote on the Defense bill until the 302(b) allocations are renegotiated, so timing and prospects for this package are still uncertain.

## II. Advocacy

- **CEF Hill Teams meeting with Senator Schatz yesterday** – Yesterday CEF Hill Teams met Trelaine Ito and Bijan Verlin with Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), a member of the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. They said the Senator’s priorities for the bill included education for Pacific Islanders and Native Americans, Impact Aid, and college affordability including restoring Pell Grant eligibility to formerly incarcerated students. They noted the current holding pattern for negotiations on the FY 2020 funding bill, and offered that for the FY 2021 bill they will focus on areas where they can have impact with report language, since they have more avenues for success that way than with amendments to the bill.

### III. Events

- **Learning Policy Institute (LPI) briefing on “Supporting a Well-Prepared and Diverse Teacher Workforce” on October 30** – CEF member the Learning Policy Institute is cosponsoring a lunch briefing on Supporting a Well-Prepared and Diverse Teacher Workforce on Wednesday, October 30, from 12:15-1:30pm in 902 Hart Senate Office Building. Information on speakers and registration is [here](#).
- **Briefing and Webinar on “The Case for an Inclusive Vision of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning” on October 31** – CEF Members the National Center for Learning Disabilities and the Alliance for Excellent Education are holding an in-person briefing and a webinar titled “Why Now? Why Us? The Case for an Inclusive Vision of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning” on October 31 from 1:00-2:30pm at 1201 Connective Ave, NW, Suit 901. Information on speakers and registration is [here](#).
- **LPI briefing on Separate and Unequal: How School Diversity Matters for Educational Opportunity and Attainment on November 14** – LPI and several other organizations are hosting a breakfast briefing to share research on how school segregation affects student achievement, how desegregation benefits all students, and which policies best support school integration. The briefing is on Thursday, November 14, from 9:00-10:30am in the Kennedy Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building. Information on speakers and registration is [here](#).
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** –
  - **Friday, October 25** – 9-11 a.m. at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speakers: Alex Keenan and Mark Laisch (calling in), Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Democratic staff.
  - **Friday, November 1** – 9-11 a.m. at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Jordan Sciascia, Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA).
  - **Monday, November 4** – CEF Presidential Forum on Education at the Newseum’s Knight Conference Center. Details coming soon.
  - **Friday, November 8** – No CEF meeting. Reminder that Board nominations are due by COB.
  - **Friday, November 15** – 9-11 a.m. at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Bryce McKibben, Senate HELP Committee Democratic staff.
  - **Friday, November 22** – 9-11 a.m. at AFSCME (1625 L Street, NW, Board Room). Guest speaker: TBD.
  - **Friday, November 29** – No CEF meeting during congressional recess.