



Monday, November 15, 2021

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congressional update** – The House and Senate are back in session this week and it’s possible that the House will vote on the Build Back Better Act reconciliation bill by the end of the week. Some moderate Democrats have withheld their support until they see the entire cost estimate from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which has been releasing scores as they are complete for each of the 13 House committees that reported reconciliation proposals. CBO today said it will complete all scoring by the end of Friday; so far, [CBO has posted scores for 6 of the committees](#), which does not include the score of the House Education and Labor Committee that contains the bulk of the education-related investments. It’s unclear if the House will vote on the bill late Friday or wait until after the Thanksgiving week recess. The Senate will certainly make changes to the bill before it votes, either because a provision does not pass the “Byrd Rule” that limits the type of provisions that can be in a reconciliation bill or because a provision would keep a Democratic Senator from voting for the bill. A reconciliation bill can pass the Senate if it has the support of majority, which requires all Democrats to support it since Republicans have said they will not vote for it. That means that the bill would have to come back to the House for a final vote after Senate action. Also still pending is further action on fiscal year (FY) 2022 appropriations, a task not likely to be completed until late December at the earliest but more likely early in 2022. The government is operating on an extension of FY 2021 funding levels through December 3, but congressional leaders have already acknowledged that appropriations are not likely to be done by then (see [Majority Leader Schumer’s Dear Colleague letter](#) of November 14 laying out his agenda for the rest of this year). The chairs and ranking members of the Appropriations Committees haven’t been able to agree on how to split funding between defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) programs and what to do about so-called “policy riders” (also referred to as “poison pill” provisions by those who oppose them) that could change current policy on a range of hot-button issues.
- **Glenna Gallo announced as nominee for Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services** – On Friday, the [White House announced](#) the President’s intention to nominate Glenna Gallo to be Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) at the Department of Education. She is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education for the state of Washington, and previously directed special education in Utah and in the classroom. She is a past president of CEF member the National Association of State Directors of Education and participated in our in-state education stakeholder meeting with Senator Patty Murray’s office this year.

- **Education-related hearing this week** – the House Education and Labor Committee is holding a joint hearing this week with both the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and of the Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee.
 - **Hearing on “Examining the Implementation of COVID-19 Education Funds”** on [Wednesday, November 17, at 10:15am ET](#) – Featuring witnesses from the Department of Education.

II. Advocacy

- **Sample tweet in support of education investments** – CEF is continuing to advocate for greater education investments for both fiscal year 2022 appropriations and in the Build Back Better reconciliation bill. We have updated our #HearOurEdStories social media toolkit to discuss the historic education investments currently pending. Each week we are 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 (“CEF ad for Twitter – Nov. 2021”):
 - It’s time to build a better future, one student at a time. Learn more by following @edfunding or using CEF’s advocacy resources at <https://cef.org/advocacy/how-you-can-help/>

III. Events

- **Briefing on “Fulfilling the Promise: The Need to Fully Fund IDEA” on Nov. 16** – CEF members the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association and others are holding a virtual briefing tomorrow at 1pm ET on the need to fully fund special education. [Register here](#) for the link.
- **CEF’s schedule for the rest of the year -**
 - **Friday, Nov. 19** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Emily Slack, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Republican staff.
 - **Friday, Nov. 26** – no CEF Friday meeting – enjoy the Thanksgiving break.
 - **Friday, Dec. 3** – 9:30-10:45 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Brennan Barber, Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)
 - **Friday, Dec. 10** – 9:30-11:30 a.m. ET, Zoom annual meeting. Attendance is very important as we need a quorum to vote on the 2022 Board of Directors and CEF’s 2022 budget. Registration link and speaker details to come. This is the last CEF Friday meeting of the year.