



Wednesday, November 29, 2017

Dear CEF Members:

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Appropriations rumor update** – Another day, another kerfuffle, and another set of rumors. As you likely know, yesterday Democratic leadership declined to attend a meeting with the President to talk about a possible budget deal after he tweeted “I don’t see a deal” to keep the government open because of them. Meanwhile, government funding expires on December 8, in slightly over a week. We’re hearing a new rumor about a plan that involves enacting three different funding bills:
 1. By December 8, enact a two-week continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government running at current levels until December 22. This gives Congress two additional weeks to complete a budget deal that would raise spending caps for two years and include supplemental funding for disaster relief.
 2. By December 22, enact that budget deal and the supplemental, along with yet another short-term CR into next year, giving appropriators time to complete a year-long omnibus funding bill using the increased funding levels for fiscal year 2018.
 3. Sometime after Congress returns in 2018, enact the omnibus bill for the full year.

There are other key policy items that Congress must also address, including tax reform, reauthorizing CHIP (likely after tax reform in a bill with other health extenders), and flood insurance. What happens with dreamers is still a question. If this scenario plays out, Congress will depart on December 22 without having finalized FY 2018 funding.

II. Advocacy

- **Twitterstorm to #RaiseTheCaps to increase #edfunding** – CEF will hold a Twitterstorm on Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 10:30-11:30am ET to encourage Congress to raise the non-defense discretionary cap and then allocate more funding for education investments in the final fiscal year 2018 appropriations bill. Stay tuned for details – we’ll have sample tweets, charts, and a letter to Congress.

- **CEF letter to Congress on implications for education spending of revenue-losing legislation** – Yesterday CEF sent a [letter to Congress](#) expressing concern that legislation – like the current tax reform proposals – that dramatically lowers governmental receipts will lead to large cuts to education and other non-defense programs to help offset the cost. The letter does not address the tax reform bills or policies, but points out that passing tax cuts that are not paid for has historically led Congress to then slash non-defense spending to help ameliorate the deficit impact. The letter also highlights that the current legislation would trigger a new round of sequestration under the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act. Those cuts would eliminate the Department of Education’s vocational rehabilitation state grant program and double origination fees on student loans.
- **NDD United letter to Congress on need to raise the caps** – As you know, CEF is also heavily involved in NDD United’s advocacy efforts to protect non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending – Sheryl is a co-chair of NDD United. Yesterday NDD United also [wrote to Congress](#) again urging lawmakers to reject cuts to NDD programs by supporting a budget deal to eliminate sequestration. The letter lays out key reasons for supporting such a deal and protecting NDD programs.

III. CEF Activities

- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** –
 - **Friday, Dec. 1, 9-11am:** At NEA, 1201 16th St NW, Chanin Auditorium. Guest speaker: Jacque Chevalier, House Education and the Workforce Committee Democratic staff. [Note that our guest will be speaking at 9:30am.](#)
 - **Friday, Dec. 8, 9-11am:** At Georgetown University Law Center near Union Station, 600 NJ Ave, NW, Room 200 McDonough Hall. Guest Speaker: (tentative) Steve Townsend, Senate Budget Committee Republican staff.
 - **Friday, Dec. 15, 9-noon: CEF ANNUAL MEETING.** At University of California, 1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, 1st floor auditorium.

Attendance is vital – we will have elections for CEF’s 2018 Board and vote on CEF’s 2018 budget. We also have two excellent guest speakers to provide a bipartisan overview of the budget and appropriations action at the end of the year and the implications going forward. The experts on budget policy, procedure, and the economy are:

- [Bill Hoagland](#), Senior Vice President at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Senate budget guru who worked for 21 years for the Senate Budget Committee Republican staff, in addition to positions at the Congressional Budget Office and the executive branch.
- [Aaron Klein](#), Fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution and Policy Director of its Center on Regulations and Markets, who previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Treasury Department and also as Chief Economist for the Senate Banking Committee Democratic staff.

And of course, we’ll provide CEF’s traditional [annual meeting hot breakfast as a bonus!](#)

- Sarah

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