



Monday, November 29, 2021

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congress's "to-do" list** – Congress is back in session this week with big items on its "must-do" list and on its "want-to-do" list.
 - First up is extending government funding beyond its Friday midnight expiration; Congress must pass another continuing resolution (CR) that will freeze funding for most programs at their fiscal year (FY) 2021 levels. Republican appropriations leaders have suggested that this next CR should extend until February or March, while House Appropriations Committee chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) previously suggested a two-week CR until December 17. It's virtually impossible that Congress could agree on new funding levels for programs in all 12 government funding bills by mid-December given that there is not yet an agreement on total spending or the split between defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending. However, Congress has a history of procrastinating on appropriations decisions until the last minute, so a 2- to 3-month extension of funding likely would put off any decisions for months. The new fiscal year began almost two months ago, and education programs along with all other federally funded programs are not able to plan for their future until they know their FY 2022 funding levels. If I had to bet, I would bet that there would be a CR until mid-February.
 - Second on the "must-do" list is raising the debt limit or suspending it until a specific date in the future. Estimates are that the current debt limit will be reached by mid-December, requiring congressional action or else the government will stop being able to meet its obligations – something that could have catastrophic economic results. Republicans have vowed in the past not to help Democrats raise the debt limit. Senate leaders have not yet agreed on how to proceed. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) wants Democrats to raise the debt limit through the budget reconciliation process, which would require first passing a new budget resolution or amending the current one, then passing a reconciliation bill with 50 Democratic votes to raise the debt ceiling – a lengthy process.
 - On the "want-to-do" list is enacting the Build Back Better Act and the National Defense Authorization Act. The Senate is currently debating the defense bill; this is not the appropriations bill, but rather the annual authorization bill, which now authorizes more defense funding than was included in the FY 2022 defense appropriations bill the House passed this summer. It is assumed a final FY 2022 defense appropriations bill will match the level in the authorization bill, likely requiring an offsetting cut to the NDD funding levels in

the House-passed bills. That would likely lead to a cut in the total education funding from the level in the House-passed bill. In addition, Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) said he wants the Senate to pass the Build Back Better Act by Christmas, but the agenda between now and then is full.

- **CBO information on economic effects of universal preschool and child care in Build Back Better** – The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has added new items to its estimates of the costs and savings from the Build Back Better Act, including a [document](#) on the economic effects of universal preschool and expanding subsidized child care. The report goes into detail about the impact on the child care workforce (positive), parents' work (overall more likely to work more than before) and income (depends on whether they qualify for subsidized child care and other factors), and children's long-term outcomes (universal preschool would lead to higher earnings for participating children as adults).
- **Please take a moment to complete CEF's brief survey** – Each fall, CEF surveys its membership to ensure we are providing the benefits you want and to ask for suggestions for improvement. The survey will take only a few minutes, and all responses are anonymous. Your feedback will help us tailor our activities, advocacy, and information to what you most value. Please take the time to respond and feel free to comment on areas that were not addressed. [Click here](#) to take the survey.

II. Advocacy

- **On-going push for education funding in FY 2022 appropriations and in the Build Back Better Act** – CEF is continuing its advocacy in support of large increases in education funding in FY 2022 appropriations and in the Build Back Better Act. We are requesting more Hill meetings with members of the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees, and encourage you to write to Congress urging fast action on FY 2022 appropriations bills that increase education funding. The second CEF Update of 11.23.21 included a template letter you could adapt to urge Congress to act quickly on appropriations.
- **Sample tweet urging Congress to increase education funding for FY 2022** – 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”):
 - The President, House and Senate have proposed historic increases for education for this fiscal year, but none has yet been enacted. Urge Congress to act now to support education. Learn more by following @edfunding or using CEF's toolkit at <https://cef.org/wp-content/uploads/CEF-Hear-Our-Ed-Stories-tool-kit-Oct-20-2021.pdf>

III. Events

- **Please RSVP here for CEF's Annual Meeting on Friday, Dec. 10** – The first CEF Update on Nov. 23 included CEF's annual report and the details of for the election of CEF's Board of Directors for 2022 at our annual meeting on December 10. Attendance is important for the elections and for a preview of CEF's 2021 plans – we need a quorum of at least 1/3 of all members to attend! [Please RSVP here](#) so we know who the official voting representative for each CEF member will be, whether you will join by computer or by phone, and how to contact you. More than one person from each

organization is welcome to attend the annual meeting but each CEF member in good standing gets one vote in the election, and a representative of the organization must attend the Zoom meeting to vote. This year's keynote speaker is Maureen Tracey-Mooney, Special Assistant to the President for Education Policy on the Domestic Policy Council, speaking at 9:30 ET.

- **CEF's schedule for the rest of the year -**
 - **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](#). See RSVP link and agenda details above. This is the last CEF Friday meeting of the year.
 - **Friday, January 7** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.