



Wednesday, November 7, 2018

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Election is over, so what's next?** – Now we know that next year the House of Representatives will be controlled by Democrats and the Senate will still be controlled by Republicans with a larger margin but still short of the 60 votes needed to end a filibuster. But what does this mean, and what does it mean for education funding in particular? In the short term, the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress will be back in business next week and need to finish action on the seven remaining fiscal year 2019 funding bills, whose programs are currently funded only through December 7 (note that full-year education funding has already been enacted). It remains to be seen whether House Democrats want to push to delay those bills until January when Democrats have more power, or whether House Republicans are more inclined to negotiate compromises to finalize the bills while they still in the majority. For the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, the election outcome means that neither Democrats nor Republicans will be able to enact a partisan agenda, and it's unlikely that the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress will be known for huge accomplishments for either party. For instance, it seems unlikely that a sweeping reauthorization of the Higher Education Act would be negotiated by a split Congress. Instead, we could see more compromise on appropriations bills and work on less controversial issues where the parties have something in common. That could include negotiating new discretionary spending caps and a bill providing infrastructure investments, which could include schools. For education funding, presumably Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) – a strong supporter of education funding – will chair the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. She will push for a high allocation for her subcommittee bill, something we are optimistic will happen, especially since she is a close ally of Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY), who presumably will chair the full Appropriations Committee.
- **ACG's analysis of upcoming issues in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress** – Attached is a memo that ACG staff prepared in advance of the election that we thought you might find informative. It covers many non-education issues, but provides the big-picture view of many issues that will be front and center in the lame duck and in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.
- **Changes in membership on Appropriations and education authorizing committees** – New ratios of Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate next year will drive changes to the make-up of all committees. House committees will add Democratic slots and lose Republican slots, and the reverse will be true in the Senate. We won't know until later who is appointed to each committee, but based on the elections we already know which members will not be returning to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress. I've attached the complete list of those four committees showing who will not be returning, which includes:
  - **Six Republican House Appropriations Committee members**, none of whom were on the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee: Reps. Frelinghuysen, Culberson, Yoder, Rooney, Young (IA), Taylor;

- **Eight or nine members of the House Education and the Workforce Committee**, including 7 Republicans: Reps. Rokita, Barletta, Messer, Brat, Lewis (MN), Garrett, and Handel (this race isn't decided yet); and two Democrats: Polis and Shea-Porter; and
- **One Republican on the Senate HELP Committee**: Sen. Hatch.
- **What to expect from House Democrats in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress** – House Democrats had outlined [their education agenda](#), which includes a number of education funding initiatives, to be paid for by revisiting the tax cuts provided to the top 1%:
  - \$50 billion for K-12 school infrastructure and resources.
  - \$50 billion over ten years to increase teacher compensation and to recruit and retain a diverse workforce. In a separate proposal, Democrats pledged to leverage \$107 billion in combined federal, state, and local resources to invest in physical and digital school infrastructure, creating 1.9 million jobs.
  - Increase special education funding to meet the government's pledge to pay for 40 percent of the excess costs of education students with disabilities. Federal funding currently covers only about 15 percent of the excess costs.
  - Increase support to increase capacity in Title I schools and ensure all students have access to a well-rounded education.
- **Education and Workforce Committee Democratic agenda** – Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) is in line to become chair of the House Education and the Workforce Committee next year, when it is likely to be named once again the Education and Labor Committee. Various aspects of the Committee's Democratic policy agenda are described [here](#), which include reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the [Aim Higher Act](#) to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, as well as oversight into the Department of Education's regulatory actions and implementation of current laws.

## II. Events

- **CEF's upcoming schedule** –
  - **Friday, Nov. 9** – No CEF meeting while Congress is in recess.
  - **Friday, Nov. 16**, 9-11am, at AFSCME, 1625 L St, NW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. Guest speaker: Donni Turner, Senate Budget Committee Democratic staff; (tentative) Steve Townsend, Senate Budget Committee Republican staff.
  - **Friday, Nov. 23** – No CEF meeting while Congress is in recess for Thanksgiving.
  - **Friday, Nov. 30**, 9-11am, at AASCU, 1307 New York Ave, NW, auditorium. Guest speaker: TBD.
  - **Friday, Dec. 7**, 9-11am, 9-11am, at AFSCME, 1625 L St, NW, 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room. Guest speaker: TBD.

My best,

Sheryl

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