



Tuesday, December 7, 2021

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congressional update** – At the end of last week, Congress passed a second continuing resolution (CR) that extends government funding at fiscal year (FY) 2021 levels until February 18, staving off a government shutdown but putting off enacting any funding increases until more than one third of the way through the new fiscal year. This 11-week extension from the December 3rd end of the original CR means Congress will have time to work on a number of issues before it turns back to appropriations. On the front burner this week and next week are the need to raise or suspend the debt limit and the plan to pass the National Defense Authorization Act and the Build Back Better Act reconciliation bill. Of those three topics, only the defense authorization bill (this is not the funding bill, but rather the annual authorization for defense programs) has bipartisan support. Senate and House leaders are negotiating several possible ways to proceed that would mix and match the debt limit increase and the defense authorization bill to try to get both passed. On the reconciliation bill, yesterday Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-NY) wrote to Democratic Senators with an update on the status of work on the Build Back Better Act. As of yesterday, 4 of the 12 Senate committees with reconciliation instructions to produce legislation had yet to submit final text, which would then be scored by the Congressional Budget Office and reviewed by the Senate Parliamentarian. The HELP Committee is one of the four that had not yet finished its legislation; the Committee was scheduled to informally review its text with the Parliamentarian early this week, prior to the official bipartisan meeting. At that latter formal meeting, Republican staff can make their case about why they think particular provisions do not comply with the Senate’s Byrd Rule that limits what can be in a reconciliation bill, and Democratic staff can defend the inclusion. At the end, the Parliamentarian decides which provisions survive this so-called “Byrd Bath,” and those provisions will be in the final bill that the Senate then debates and could amend. Senator Schumer still hopes to pass the reconciliation bill before the holiday break, but that seems like a tall task at this point. After the Senate passes the bill, it would need to go back to the House for a vote, since the Senate bill will be different than what the House passed in November.
- **Bryce McKibben to leave the Senate HELP Committee staff** – Senate HELP Committee chair Patty Murray’s (D-WA) senior policy advisor for higher education, [Bryce McKibben](#), will be leaving after more than 7 years to work for the [Hope Center for College, Community and Justice](#) at Temple University. Bryce is staying at the HELP Committee until the Build Back Better Act is passed.
- **Reminder: 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

- **Hill Teams meetings** – CEF’s Hill Teams and Advocacy Committee is meeting with education staffers for members of the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee to encourage action on a FY 2022 appropriations bill with big education funding increases and on the reconciliation bill. Yesterday Brian Moulton reported that Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) remains focused on finalizing full-year FY 2022 appropriation with education funding increases, and completing the Build Back Better Act. Today Hill Teams met with Erica Anhalt with Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), who is working to ensure that the universal preschool provisions in the Build Back Better Act will accommodate states with “challenging budgets” that might preclude a full opt-in state funding contribution. The Senator is also seeking suggestions of Republican Senators they could invite to be a co-lead on the Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program Act. CEF currently has additional Hill meetings scheduled with staffers for Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC).
- **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 ED increases finally lift funding above 2011 real level”):
 - Although the President, House & Senate have proposed record increases for education, funding is currently frozen below the level of a decade ago in inflation-adjusted dollars. 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

- **Reminder: please RSVP here** for CEF’s Annual Meeting this 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 a.m. ET.
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule -**
 - **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: Ashling Kelly Preston, Senator Tim Scott (R-SC).
 - **Friday, January 14** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.

- **Friday, January 21** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom quarterly committee meeting](#). This is a chance for each committee to work on its agenda for the year, and for CEF members to learn more about which committee(s) they might like to join.
- **Friday, January 28** – no CEF meeting.