



COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

Thursday, December 12, 2019

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **FY 2020 appropriations may be finished as soon as today** – We’re hearing that congressional appropriators negotiating the 12 government funding bills for fiscal year (FY) 2020 think they may be able to file the bills as soon as today – if everything goes well. It’s still likely the bills will be packaged into two omnibus bills, with no amendments allowed. The deadline for passing some sort of funding – either another extension at last year’s level (known as a Continuing Resolution, or CR) or the full-year funding – is next Friday, December 20, when the current CR expires. From what we can tell, there are a number of issues still to resolve, some policy-related and some project-related, but leadership has been encouraging that the big issues are close to resolution.
- **What to keep in mind for the funding total for the Labor-HHS-Education bill** – We still do not know the funding total for each bill or how that funding will be divided among programs. One thing to remember when we finally see the funding total (known as the “302(b) allocation”) for the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill is that there may be additional funding available for the programs in the bill if it (a) increases the amount of funding it shifts from mandatory programs to discretionary programs (these are known as CHIMPS, for Changes In Mandatory Programs), and (b) if it rescinds previously appropriated Pell Grant funding and then spends those old funds on new programs for FY 2020. The version of the bill proposed by Senate Subcommittee Chair Roy Blunt (R-MO) this fall used both approaches to increase programmatic FY 2020 funding in the bill. Neither of those dollar figures will be reflected in the 302(b) allocation for the Subcommittee bill but would result in additional FY 2020 discretionary funding for the bill’s programs.
- **House passes higher education bill** – On Tuesday, the House passed a modified version of a Senate-passed bill that permanently authorizes \$225 million in mandatory spending annually for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and for other Minority Serving Institutions; the bill also simplifies the application for federal financial aid. The Senate passed its version of the FUTURE Act last week, and is now expected to quickly pass the House version. These two provisions had been part of the ongoing broader negotiations in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, which is still pending.

II. Events

- **CEF annual meeting tomorrow, December 13, 9-11:30am, at University of California (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, auditorium)** – Attendance is important for elections and approval of CEF’s 2020 budget. This morning we sent the agenda and supporting materials for the meeting, which starts at

9am with a hot breakfast, with programming starting earlier than usual at 9:20am. Our special guest speaker is [Daniel Leeds](#), a leader in a number of education groups, including CEF member Alliance for Excellent Education as well as Education 2020, a coalition that includes many CEF members that is advocating for a comprehensive education agenda that promotes universal inclusion and access to on-going learning opportunities.

- **Public Education Forum 2020 livestreamed on Saturday** – Eleven public education groups, including four CEF Members – American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Teachers; National Education Coalition; and Service Employees International Union – are hosting eight top Democratic presidential candidates at the “Public Education Forum 2020: Equity and Just for All” on Saturday, December 14, starting at 10am in Pittsburgh. The forum will be streamed live on NBC News Now, MSNBC.com and NBC News Learn, and will be featured across MSNBC programming.
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule –**
 - **Friday, December 13** – CEF annual meeting (see details above).
 - **No additional Friday meetings until January 10.**
 - **Friday, January 10, 2020** - 9-11 a.m. at AFT (555 New Jersey Ave, NW, 9th floor): Guest speaker TBD.