



COMMITTEE FOR
EDUCATION FUNDING

Thursday, December 5, 2019

I. Advocacy

- **Reminder: Today is the first of two CEF call-in days to reach the House today and the Senate tomorrow in support of increased education funding for FY 2020** – As the House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees are trying to wrap up their work on their fiscal year (FY) 2020 funding bill, we are mobilizing support for increased education funding! Please share the attached straight-forward instructions, twitter addresses, and two charts with your networks today so that the House of Representatives will get lots of calls urging Representatives to push for greater investments in education, and the Senate will get calls on Friday!
- **CEF letter to Congress supporting increased education funding** – In addition to our call-in day today and tomorrow, on Tuesday, CEF wrote a [letter to all Members of Congress](#) urging them work for the highest possible levels of education funding in the FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.

II. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **FY 2020 appropriations status update** – Short summary: negotiations are ongoing but not all 12 government funding bills may be completed by time the current extension of last year's funding expires on December 20. The goal is for subcommittees to have completed all the work they can by Friday, and then to elevate the outstanding issues to the full Appropriations Committee leaders. We'd heard that the original plan was to package the bills into two packages, but Democrats are saying they do not want to pass any bills until all 12 bills are completed. Senate Appropriations Committee chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) did not sound optimistic about completing all the bills in the next two and a half weeks, noting "We're continuing to talk. I hope that things improve. But if they don't ... I think we're headed down the road to a [continuing resolution extending current funding]." Nothing has been made public yet about the funding totals for each bill or the likely program levels within each bill.
- **Senate considering bipartisan agreement on FUTURE Act and FAFSA simplification** – This week the leaders of the Senate HELP Committee [announced a bipartisan agreement](#) on legislation that the Senate is considering today to provide \$255 million in annual mandatory funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions, and to make the federal student aid application less cumbersome to complete. The mandatory funding for HBCUs and MSIs (which is in addition to the discretionary funding provided annually in the appropriations bills) had ended this fall. The compromise builds on the FUTURE Act, which the House had already passed. HELP Committee chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has said he wants to reauthorize the Higher Education Act before he retires at the end of this Congress; it's not clear if enacting these two high-profile fixes

will lessen the sense of urgency to produce a full reauthorization that covers many other issues, as well.

- **Senate publishes 2020 calendar except for January** – Due to the uncertainty over scheduling for a potential impeachment trial in January, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) published the Senate’s 2020 calendar that leaves January blank for the time being. Roll Call has combined the House and Senate schedules into one congressional calendar [here](#).

III. Events

- **CEF briefing on Capitol Hill on Monday, December 9, 3:20-5:00pm** – **Note: The Members of Congress will speak promptly at 3:30pm, so please arrive by 3:20pm for some refreshments and to get seated.** We hope you all will attend next week’s CEF’s briefing on “The Importance of Education to the Economy and National Security” in 2045 Rayburn House Office Building. We are inviting all congressional staff working on education, defense, and the economy. The briefing is a great way to broaden the base of congressional staff who understand the importance of education funding beyond just those working on education. Please [RSVP here](#) or by email to RSVP@CEF.org, and feel free to share the invitation with others.

Speakers:

- [Representative Anthony Brown \(D-MD\)](#) – on Armed Services as well as Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Ethics
 - [Representative Robert Wittman \(R-VA\)](#) – on Armed Services as well as Natural Resources
 - [Jason Dougal](#), Executive Vice President of the National Center on Education, and Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for School Leadership
 - [Chery A. Oldham](#), Vice President of Education Policy, US Chamber of Commerce, and Senior Vice President of Education and Workforce, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** –
 - **Friday, December 6** – 9-11 a.m. at NEA (1201 16th St, NW, News Conference Room).
 - **Monday, December 9** – 3:30-5:00pm, 2045 Rayburn House Office Building, Capitol Hill briefing: “The Importance of Education Investments to the Economy and National Security.” See details above.
 - **Friday, December 13** – 9-11:30am, CEF’s annual meeting and elections at University of California (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, auditorium). Attendance is important for elections and approval of CEF’s 2020 budget. We’ll have a hot breakfast and special guest speaker [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.
 - **No additional Friday meetings until January.**
 - **Friday, January 10, 2020** - 9-11 a.m. at AFT (555 New Jersey Ave, NW, 9th floor): Guest speaker TBD.