



Monday, February 22, 2021

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Reconciliation – next steps in the process of passing the American Rescue Plan** – Today at 1pm ET, the House Budget Committee will hold a [virtual markup](#) to compile the reconciliation legislation submitted by House committees into one bill that comprises the main components of the Biden Administration’s American Rescue Plan. Nine of the 12 House committees that received reconciliation instructions marked up their recommendations, including the House Education and Labor Committee, which provided funding for the Department of Education, child care, and other education-related programs. Two other committees marked up legislation providing \$350 billion of state and local relief and \$7.5 billion for expanded e-rate funding for families and library patrons. The Budget Committee cannot change the underlying bills but when the House Rules Committee meets later this week it will likely make in order (or self-executive) a Manger’s Amendment that makes the following changes:
  1. adds the recommended language from the three other instructed committees that did not mark up legislation,
  2. makes any needed technical changes or policy changes requested by Democratic leadership,
  3. changes or deletes language that would appear to violate the Senate’s “Byrd Rule” that bars “extraneous” provisions from reconciliation bills (in this case, it’s likely to be language that staff, in consultation with the Senate parliamentarian, have decided does not have more than an incidental budgetary impact), and
  4. adds provisions to offset some costs (through spending cuts or revenue increases) or just reduces the spending or tax breaks already included to ensure that the total cost for each committee does not exceed its instructed maximum cost set by the fiscal year 2021 budget resolution. We’re learning this week that some of the costs are coming in higher than expected, hence the needs for offsetting savings or tax increases to trim spending or tax cuts in the bill.
- **House and Senate votes** – The House plans to vote on the reconciliation bill later this week or possibly over the weekend. Then the Senate will take up the House bill and substitute its own version, which will be similar but not identical to the House-passed bill. Reconciliation bills get expedited procedures in the Senate, the key being that they require just 50 votes to

pass, but still allow for 20 hours of debate and then a “vote-a-rama” where Senators can offer amendments but have no time for debate, just voting. After the Senate passes its version, Democratic leaders will then decide whether to hold a conference to work out differences between the House and Senate bills, or whether the House will just pass the Senate version of the bill (something the House clearly would not prefer). Democrats want to enact the legislation before March 14, when expanded unemployment insurance expires.

- **James Kvaal to be nominated as Department of Education Undersecretary** – On Friday, the [White House announced](#) it will nominate James Kvaal to be Undersecretary of Education, a position responsible for postsecondary education, student aid, career technical education and adult education. He is president of The Institute for College Access & Success, and previously worked during Democratic administrations in the Department of Education and the Domestic Policy Council, as well as for the House and the Senate.

## II. Advocacy

- **CEF social media Member of the Week: AASA** – CEF is highlighting AASA as our Member of the Week on Twitter and Instagram (@edfunding), noting its celebration of Public Schools Week this week. We’re asking CEF members to submit information about your upcoming events – advocacy days, virtual conferences, briefings, etc., – at this [link](#) so that we can highlight them and your organization on social media. Our goal is to garner more attention to the advocacy, cross-pollinating among our members’ networks. We will be in touch with you as we get close to your event to get your material - language and images – that we can use and then link to your own sites.

## III. Events

- **CEF’s 117<sup>th</sup> Congress Welcome Reception (via Zoom) on Thursday, February 25** – While we wait until a time that we can once again mingle over brownies and beverages, we’re throwing a Zoom reception for congressional education staffers and CEF members next week, Thursday, February 25, from 4:30-5:30 ET. It’s a busy time but we wanted to provide an opportunity to introduce CEF to new education staff and – equally important – have the education community come together for some camaraderie! We’ll have breakout rooms to allow for conversations and will encourage people to mingle – i.e., move from room to room. We’re asking people to RSVP so we have a sense of how many breakout rooms to create, but all CEF members and Hill staff are welcome! [RSVP link is here](#), and the Zoom link to attend is [here](#).
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule -**
  - **Thursday, Feb. 25** – 4:30-5:30 p.m. ET, [Zoom CEF 117<sup>th</sup> Congress Welcome Reception](#). See details above.
  - **Friday, Feb. 26** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
  - **Friday, March 5** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
  - **Friday, March 12** – no CEF meeting.
  - **Friday, March 19** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
  - **Wednesday, March 24 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET** – Zoom briefing for congressional staff and CEF members: “Impact of COVID-19 on Education Jobs” (link and details to come).