



Monday, February 25, 2019

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Budget and appropriations hearings** – The House Budget Committee posted a [summary report](#) on its [February 7 hearing that highlights CEF's testimony](#) – it even includes one of our charts! This coming week, House Appropriations subcommittees are beginning to hold hearings on fiscal year 2020 budget issues, although they are not education-related.
- **Education and Labor Committee mark-up of school infrastructure bill** – On Tuesday, the [House Education and Labor Committee will mark up the Rebuild America's School Act, H.R. 865](#), at 10:15am in 2175 Rayburn House Office Building. The bill would authorize more than \$70 billion in grants and \$30 billion in bonds to address physical and digital infrastructure needs (the Committee has a [fact sheet](#) and a [section-by-section](#) description of the original bill).
- **Budget issues** – Congress is back this week with plans to take up several high-profile issues, including a resolution terminating the President's declaration of a national emergency. Congress is also slowly turning to discussion of when and by how much to raise the defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) caps for FY 2020 (and likely also for FY 2021). [The Administration wants a very large increase for defense spending, but some have suggested that the increase might be done with Overseas Contingency Operations funding \(i.e., emergency funding that is not subject to the discretionary caps\).](#) [On the NDD side, the Administration's budget will likely cut funding to at most the cap in current law, which is the sequester level that requires a \\$55 billion \(9 percent\) cut.](#) Meanwhile, the House is also preparing a FY 2020 budget resolution. [Based on past timing, the House Budget Committee will likely mark up its resolution the first week of April;](#) it's less likely that the Senate Budget Committee will take action. According to press reports, Democrats are debating how to balance funding for key progressive priorities along with their related deficit implications that are of great concern for moderates.

II. Advocacy

- **CEF Hill Teams meetings with House and Senate freshmen offices** – Thanks to all the Hill Teams members who participated in five meetings last week – and those signed up for the four more this week. We are using the meetings to introduce CEF and its resources and advocacy, and outline the need to raise the NDD cap to provide for increased investments in education. Last week Laila Goharioon reported that [Rep. Lucy McBath \(D-GA\) in general wants to ensure that students, teachers, and schools have the resources they need, with a particular focus on IDEA, counselors, and Pell Grants.](#) Ben Bergstrom reported that [Sen. Kevin Cramer \(R-ND\) is interested in expanding school choice, particularly in Indian Country.](#) Kelly Riddle noted that [Sen. Jacky Rosen \(D-NV\) wants to increase access and address inequality in STEM](#)

programs and will be reintroducing the Building Blocks of STEM Act (HR 3397 in the last Congress).

We still have some space available for our meetings this week:

- Sen. Mike Braun (R-IN) - on HELP, Budget
- Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN) - on Education and Labor, Budget
- Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI) - on Education and Labor
- Rep. Joe Morelle (D-NY) - on Education and Labor, Budget

III. CEF Events

- **Tomorrow! February 26, 4-6pm, 2060 Rayburn House Office Building (flyer attached) – I hope you will join us for CEF’s Capitol Hill reception to welcome the 116th Congress tomorrow, February 26, from 4pm-6pm in 2060 Rayburn House Office Building. More than 30 Hill staffers and several Members of Congress have RSVPed, and we expect a great turnout. Please [RSVP here](#) so we can prepare nametags and know how many people to expect!**
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule –**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 26** – CEF Hill reception for the 116th Congress, 4-6pm, 2060 Rayburn House Office Building. All CEF members are invited! See details above.
- **Friday, Mar. 1** – 9-11am, at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW, auditorium). Guest speaker: Brandon Mendoza (tentative), Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA).
- **Friday, Mar. 8** – 9-11am, at NEA (1201 16th ST, NW, News Conference Room). Guest speaker: Jonathan Antista, House Budget Committee.
- **Friday, Mar. 15** – 9-11am, at Georgetown Law School (600 New Jersey Ave, NW, Room 200 McDonough Hall). Guest speaker: Conor Sheehey, Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC).
- **Friday, Mar. 22** – 9-11am, Quarterly Committee meeting at University of California (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW, auditorium).
- **Friday, Mar. 29** – No CEF meeting.

- Sarah

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COMMITTEE FOR
EDUCATION FUNDING

Members of Congress and education staffers are invited to join
CEF members at a

Welcome Reception for the 116th Congress

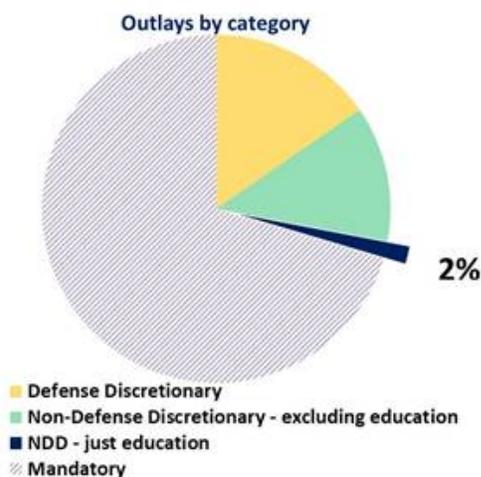
Tuesday, February 26, 2019

4-6pm

2060 Rayburn House Office Building

[RSVP here](#) or by email to RSVP@CEF.org

Education Accounts for Less Than 2% of All Federal Spending



5¢ Makes Sense! #5Cents4Edfunding

Please stop by for appetizers and drinks and to meet Members of Congress, Hill education staffers, and the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) advocacy community!

CEF is a coalition of more than 110 associations, institutions, and others working to increase federal education investments across the continuum from early childhood education to postgraduate education. CEF serves as a resource on the need for and status of education funding.

See www.cef.org or follow [@edfunding](https://twitter.com/edfunding), [#5Cents4Edfunding](https://twitter.com/5Cents4Edfunding) and [#HearOurEdStories](https://twitter.com/HearOurEdStories)