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COMMITTEE FOR  
EDUCATION FUNDING

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Thursday, March 18, 2021

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Attached – CEF report on education funding in the American Rescue Plan** – The attached CEF report summarizes education funding in the American Rescue Plan, including a description of the major education provisions, a link to a Congress Research Service report with estimates of state funding, a side-by-side showing the provisions in the Act versus the House and Senate versions and the previously enacted COVID-relief bills, and a list of the Act’s education funding by section. This material has been sent separately in various CEF Updates but I thought it would be useful to have it all in one place as a reference tool.
- **House Republicans lift ban on appropriations “earmarks”** – The House Republican caucus voted yesterday to participate in House Democrats’ plans to allow each Member of Congress to submit up to ten “community project funding” requests (also known as appropriations earmarks) for fiscal year (FY) 2022 funding bills. The requests have specified limits and transparency requirements. Congress banned earmarks ten years ago, and the Senate hasn’t said whether it will participate this year or not. However, I can’t imagine that Senators will approve bills that have funding requested by House members that is designated for particular community projects without requesting some themselves. I expect that whatever is ultimately enacted either will have projects requested by both chambers or will have none. There are pros and cons to allowing earmarks: their inclusion gives Members of Congress another reason to vote for a bill with funding for their district or state, and earmarks allow funding to flow to a greater range of projects, often providing seed money. On the other hand, if overall funding totals aren’t increased from last year’s levels (but I think they will be!), then funding earmarks takes dollars away from other ongoing education programs. Because the annual discretionary spending caps under the Budget Control Act end after FY 2021, Congress can increase discretionary spending to whatever level it wants, so it’s unlikely that allowing earmarks to account for up to 1% of all discretionary spending will mean a cut to existing programs.

## II. Advocacy

- **Hill Teams meetings with House Education and Labor Committee members** – CEF currently has Hill meetings confirmed with the education staffers for two members in their second Congress serving on the House Education and Labor Committee: Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI) and Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX). Members of CEF’s Hill Teams and Advocacy Committee have been emailed the details of how to sign up to participate, and we have other meeting requests pending. If anyone else would like to join Hill Teams, just let me know and we’ll add you to the email list and the monthly Zoom meetings.

## III. Events

- **CEF Hill Briefing: The Impact of COVID-19 on Education Jobs, Thursday, March 25, 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET** – [RSVP here for the Zoom webinar link](#). CEF is holding its first Zoom briefing of the year for congressional education staffers and CEF members. We will hear from researchers and policy experts who will provide a broad outline of the impact on education jobs nationwide, discuss the disparate impact from state to state, and address the job impact in both the elementary and secondary school arena as well as higher education. States and localities have already eliminated more than 1 million jobs and cut billions from their education budgets, and colleges have been hard hit, with nearly one quarter laying off faculty, office, and administrative staff by last fall. Panelists are:
  - [Melat Kassa](#), Research Associate, Economic Policy Institute
  - [Maryanne Salm](#), Associate Director of Research & Strategic Initiatives, American Federation of Teachers
  - [Andy Brantley](#), President and CEO, College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
  
- **NAfME briefing on Music, Arts, and Social Emotional Learning on March 24** – CEF member the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and others are holding a virtual briefing on the ways that music education supports students in becoming resilient and socially empowered individuals. The briefing is Wednesday, March 24, at 3:00 p.m. ET. [Click here](#) for more details and to RSVP.
  
- **AFT virtual conversation with Education Secretary Cardona on March 25** – CEF member the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) invites people to join its “Share My Lesson” keynote session featuring Education Secretary Dr. Miguel Cardona and AFT President Randi Weingarten on Thursday, March 25 at 5pm ET. You can register [here](#).
  
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule -**
  - **Tomorrow - Friday, March 19** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Bradley Solyan, Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL).
  - **Thursday, March 25 – 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET** – Zoom briefing for congressional staff and CEF members: “Impact of COVID-19 on Education Jobs.” See speaker details above and [RSVP here for the webinar link](#).
  - **Friday, March 26** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker: Woo Lim, Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA).
  - **Friday, April 2 and April 9** – No CEF meeting during congressional recess.
  - **Thursday, April 15** – 5-6 p.m. ET – CEF [Zoom happy hour](#) (federal taxes aren’t due until May 17 so you can spare an hour for fun)!
  - **Friday, April 16** - 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
  - **Thursday, April 22** – 3-4 p.m. ET – Twitter chat on the President’s education budget. Details to come.