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## COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

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Friday, March 20, 2020

### I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Send your education relief requests to the Appropriations Committees** – Congress is considering what to include in upcoming coronavirus relief packages, and it's possible that legislation – something containing both authorizing changes and supplemental funding – will move quickly. If your organization or institution has identified particular education needs to be addressed, you should send the information as soon as possible to the Appropriations Committees. Below is contact information for the lead education staffers.
  - **Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee:**
    - Majority education staffer is Mike Gentile [mike\\_gentile@appro.senate.gov](mailto:mike_gentile@appro.senate.gov)
    - Minority education staffer is Mark Laisch [Mark\\_Laisch@appro.senate.gov](mailto:Mark_Laisch@appro.senate.gov)
  - **House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee:**
    - Majority education clerk is Robin Juliano [Robin.Juliano@mail.house.gov](mailto:Robin.Juliano@mail.house.gov)
    - Minority education staffer is Kathryn Salmon [kathryn.salmon@mail.house.gov](mailto:kathryn.salmon@mail.house.gov)
- **Collecting requests for education relief at CEF** – We thought it would be useful to collect the requests coming in from the various sectors of the education community. If you have written letters or have requests for funding, regulatory relief, or other intervention, please send them to me and CEF will put them in a package to share.
- **The next relief bill: possible timing and what might be included** – Last night the Senate Republican leadership released its relief package, which did not include supplemental education funding (see paragraph below, or the #3 CEF Update last night for more information). The Democratic leadership is working on its own proposal. The Senate is still in session but is understandably eager to finish work quickly, while the House is not in session and has said it will only come back for a final vote. There's a great sense of urgency to get a stimulus bill done that will address immediate needs and get funding quickly out to affected individuals and sectors of the economy. It's possible that a bipartisan proposal could be introduced in the next couple of days that would come up for a quick Senate vote and then a House vote. Such a compromise package is likely to have a lot of supplemental funding for education for states for K-12 districts and for higher education, as well as for student aid (look at the 2009 Recovery Act as an example).
- **Follow CEF on twitter to see about other education relief proposals** -- Members of Congress have already proposed some relief bills that include education (CEF has been retweeting information

about proposals that we see – follow [@edfunding](#) on Twitter for those!). Some of the big proposals:

- **Senator McConnell's CARES Act** – Last night we sent the text of the Senate leadership coronavirus relief bill and a short analysis of the education-related sections. They focused on providing student aid relief – primarily continuing grants and suspending student loan payments – and allowing states to request waivers of regulations under three of the main education laws (the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Higher Education Act, and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act). It does not contain any supplemental funding for states or new investments in education, as the Recovery Act did in 2009.
- **Democratic Supporting Students in Response to Coronavirus Act** – Senate HELP Committee co-chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and House Education and Labor Committee Chair Bobby Scott (D-VA) introduced the Supporting Students in Response to Coronavirus Act that provides a total of \$3 billion in relief to governors to support school districts and colleges, to keep early education and care programs running, and for emergency financial aid for college students to address basic needs, among other provisions.
- **Senate Democratic stimulus proposal** - Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is working on a proposal that would cancel student loan payments during the pandemic and would provide at least \$10,000 in relief per student loan borrower.

## II. ACG coronavirus summary memo

- **Memo attached and inserted below** – American Continental Group (ACG) is producing a morning and an evening coronavirus update memo that includes the latest from the Administration and Congress, macro statistics, and business and community news and notes. While this memo is not education-specific, we thought the information may help you communicate with your own institutions and networks. We will send the memo every morning and evening. The memo is inserted below and attached.



### OVERVIEW

- The number of confirmed coronavirus infections crossed 230,000, with the death toll in Italy passing that in China. The U.S. has over 10,000 confirmed cases and more than 205 deaths. California Governor Gavin Newsom has ordered a lockdown for the state's 40 million residents and the State Department has advised against overseas travel.
- [List of canceled events and public gatherings in the U.S. \(updated daily\)](#)

- [List of House Democrats Coronavirus staff points of contact](#)

## ADMINISTRATION

- President Trump announced that chloroquine or hydroxychloroquine, a drug used to treat malaria and severe arthritis, was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to enter clinical trials as a COVID-19 coronavirus treatment. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has also started a clinical trial of Gilead's antiviral drug, remdesivir, in coronavirus patients. Trump suggested that the administration could use provisions to get experimental drugs to people outside of clinical trials. One such route, known as "Right to Try," would allow people who are seriously ill and have no other treatment options to receive experimental therapies. "What we're talking about today is beyond Right to Try," Trump said. When questioned about the Defense Production Act, Trump told reporters that "the federal government is not supposed to be out there buying vast amounts of items and then shipping. You know, we're not a shipping clerk." He stated that governors and local governments should take leadership in obtaining critical equipment needed in their states.
- President Donald Trump has signed Congress' second major coronavirus relief package that aims to provide an initial safety net as layoffs begin and coronavirus cases hit every state. Now that the bill has been signed into law, it will go into effect on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and remain in effect through the end of the calendar year. Find a high-level summary of H.R. 6201 [here](#).

## CONGRESS

- Today, Congress will begin negotiations on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) \$1 trillion economic stimulus package that was introduced last night. The proposal directs up to \$1,200 for eligible taxpayers, as much as \$2,400 for married couples and an additional \$500 for every child. In addition, the proposal includes \$50 billion in loan guarantees for passenger air carriers, \$8 billion for cargo air carriers, and \$150 billion for other large businesses. The bill also includes \$300 billion for loan guarantees for small businesses. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) have voiced support for increasing unemployment insurance for Americans who have been laid off and expanding paid family leave. Find a full summary of the Senate Republican bill [here](#).
- House Republicans have introduced bills to protect residents of public housing and those experiencing homelessness who may be affected by the coronavirus.
  - H.R. 6294, introduced by Representative Scott Tipton (R-CO), would require the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to identify and increase testing and outreach in virus hot spots.
  - H.R. 6295, introduced by Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH), would require HUD and public housing authorities to draft rules restricting non-emergency and non-resident access to Section 202 elderly housing units and public housing.
  - H.R. 6296, introduced by Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH), would allow public housing authorities to blend their capital and operating funds to support virus response efforts.

- H.R. 6297, introduced by Representative Ted Budd (R-NC), requires public housing authorities to alert all residents of a public housing building when a coronavirus case has been found in the building.
- H.R. 6293, introduced by representative Lee Zeldin (R-NY), would require the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to issue guidance on best practices to prevent and respond to outbreaks among the homeless.
- House Democratic leaders announced that lawmakers will not be required to return to Washington until the next stimulus package is ready for a vote.
- House appropriators are reportedly considering including \$150 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies in the fourth round of emergency funding. Earlier this week, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Russ Vought outlined a \$46 billion ask to boost the financing of federal agencies. Majority Leader McConnell said this afternoon that lawmakers must “immediately” begin negotiating a bill to raise agency budgets after tackling the third stimulus package.

### **Business and Trade**

- The State Department said it would keep processing visas for seasonal workers, after saying it would suspend routine visa services in most countries earlier this week.

### **Health Care**

- The American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association and American Nurses Association are demanding \$100 billion in the next relief package along with targeted changes to tax laws to mitigate the impact of new cases. The Senate proposal introduced yesterday included language to freeze the 2 percent reduction in Medicare payments that was mandated under budget sequestration and increase Medicare payments by 15 percent for coronavirus-diagnosed cases. Schumer vowed he’d fight for a “Marshall Plan for hospitals” and is calling for \$400 billion to purchase equipment and build hospital capacity.
- Rising Pharmaceuticals, a company that makes a chloroquine, says it has now cut the price in half, to its original level, in response to the pandemic. The company increased the price of its chloroquine phosphate tablets 98% between December and January 2020.
- Sixteen senators sent a [letter](#) requesting the nation's largest health insurance companies including Aetna, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Kaiser Permanente and UnitedHealth Group to “suspend all cost-sharing requirements for coronavirus treatments for COVID-19 and associated health complications.”
- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services announced that all elective surgeries, non-essential medical, surgical, and dental procedures be delayed during the 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak. The guidance can be found [here](#).