



Tuesday, March 26, 2019

## I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Education-related congressional hearings this week** – Congress is holding several education-related hearings this week:
  - Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos will be testifying on the President’s fiscal year (FY) 2020 education budget request before the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee today at 10:15am. The hearing is in room 2358-C Rayburn House Office Building and will be live-streamed [here](#). Secretary DeVos will be testifying before the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee on Thursday at 10am in 124 Dirksen Senate Office Building. The hearing video will be [here](#).
  - Member Day hearing at the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee on March 27 at 10am. The hearing will be live-streamed [here](#).
  - The House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment will hold a hearing on “Innovations in Expanding Registered Apprenticeship Programs” on Wednesday, March 27, at 10:15am in 2175 Rayburn House Office Building.
- **Senate Budget Committee to start marking up FY 2020 budget resolution tomorrow** – Senate Budget Committee chair Mike Enzi (R-WY) released his FY 2020 budget resolution on Friday afternoon, and the Committee will begin its markup with opening statements tomorrow at 2:30pm in Dirksen 608, and consider amendments starting on Thursday at 10:30am in Hart 216. The budget covers five years (not the customary ten years), and basically sticks to the very low discretionary spending limits for non-defense discretionary (NDD) for FY 2020 and FY 2021, then freezes funding for the next three years. For defense, it provides \$67 billion in extra funding for defense, about the same level of Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding as this year, which is not limited by the caps. That is almost \$100 billion less than the President’s total defense request; the President’s budget requested \$165 billion for defense funding through OCO in order to avoid having to raise the defense caps. It includes reconciliation instructions directing the Senate HELP Committee to report legislation cutting at least \$10 billion from programs under its jurisdiction, which could affect student loan programs. However, the fast-track reconciliation procedures only kick in if there is a conference agreement on a budget resolution that includes reconciliation instructions, which is extremely unlikely when the House and Senate are controlled by different political parties.

- **House Budget Committee action on budget resolution not yet set** – The House Budget Committee hasn't yet decided if it will take up a budget resolution. Instead, it may mark up a bill to raise the defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending caps for the upcoming fiscal year (and likely also for FY 2021, the last year of the discretionary caps). House Democrats are debating how much to increase the levels of defense and NDD spending caps, but are not contemplating leaving them at the sequester level in current law, which is what the Senate budget resolution does. That means the Senate and House are will be on a path to set different discretionary totals for FY 2020, meaning that there will need to be a budget deal changing the spending caps before Congress can finalize the 12 appropriations bills each chamber will consider – bills that are likely to be far apart in total spending.

## II. Advocacy

- **Hill Teams congressional visits for April** – We have scheduled five Hill Teams visits for the next two weeks, and have several additional requests pending. We are meeting with staff of freshmen Democrats on the House Education and Labor Committee and staff of Senate Republicans on the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriation Subcommittee. The confirmed meetings are with the following offices:
  - Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA)
  - Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA)
  - Rep. Haley Stephens (D-MI)
  - Sen. James Lankford (R-OK)
  - Rep. Kim Schreier (D-WA)

We have sent information to CEF's Hill Teams and Advocacy Committee about how to sign up to participate in the visits. If you would like to be on that Committee, please email Claire Shanklin ([Shanklin@cef.org](mailto:Shanklin@cef.org)) and ask to be added to the distribution list. Once additional meetings are confirmed, we'll send another invitation to participate.

## III. Events

- **CEF Hill briefing to release our budget book on May 9** – All CEF members are invited to attend our Hill briefing to release CEF's annual budget book on Thursday, May 9, from 10-11:30am in 216 Hart Senate Office Building. The Hill Teams and Advocacy Committee is working on the briefing, where we will have a panel of practitioners representing the education continuum from states that have Members of Congress who play a crucial role in education and funding decisions. We'll schedule visits with the panelists' three Members of Congress and also invite all congressional education staffers. More details to come as speakers are confirmed.
- **CEF Gala on September 18** – Please save the date for CEF's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala and legislative conference on September 18! The reception and banquet will be at the Hotel Intercontinental-The Wharf (it's a beautiful space, with a free shuttle to the L'Enfant Plaza metro stop), and we'll hold our annual legislative conference on Capitol Hill that same afternoon. We've got information up on our [gala webpage](#), with details about this year's sponsorship benefits, tickets, and program ads [here](#). We'll be providing more information in the coming months, but meanwhile please reach out with any questions, or if you know you'd like to be a sponsor!

- **CEF's schedule for the coming month –**
  - **Friday, March 29** – No CEF meeting this week.
  - **Friday, April 5** – 9-11am, at NEA (1201 16<sup>th</sup> ST, NW, News Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor). Guest speaker: Ashli Palmer, Director of Floor Operations, House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC).
  - **Friday, April 12** – 9-11am, at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW, auditorium). Guest speaker: TBD.
  - **Friday, April 19** – No CEF meeting during Congressional recess.
  - **Friday, April 26** – No CEF meeting during Congressional recess.

My best,

Sheryl