



Monday, May 11, 2020

I. The Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senate Appropriations Committee aims to mark up most FY 2021 bills in June** – The fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations process is coming to life in the Senate. On Friday Appropriations Committee chair Richard Shelby (R-AL) said that he aims to mark up 10 of the 12 bills in Committee in June, skipping the two that do not have bipartisan agreement on key issues: the Homeland Security bill and the Military Construction-VA funding bill. The problematic issue affecting both bills is the question of funding for a border wall, something that would normally occur in the Homeland Security bill but last year the Administration also reprogrammed funding that had been enacted for military construction projects funding and instead used it for wall-building projects. As a reminder, the defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding caps for FY 2021 are basically frozen at the FY 2020 levels, and last month there had been talk that total funding for each Senate bill would be frozen at current levels, leaving just the possibility that any programmatic increases would have to be offset with cuts in the same bill. There has also been talk of providing funding outside the spending caps for COVID-related costs or for some new VA health costs, which would free up some funding for other needs under the caps.
- **Congressional outlook this week** – The House is working behind the scenes to finalize a draft of another large coronavirus response measure, with the possibility of holding a House vote as early as this Friday, May 15 (the House will give several days’ notice before it holds any votes). As described in the first CEF Update on May 7, various parts of the education community have already outlined for Congress both large funding requests and policy needs in light of the pandemic. However, the Senate and Administration want to wait to see how conditions change and how effective the already enacted relief measures are. Democrats acknowledge wanting to set the bar high on their priorities – including providing state and local fiscal relief – but it seems likely that nothing will be enacted in the near term.
- **Senate HELP Committee hearing on “COVID-19: Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School” tomorrow** – With the witnesses and Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) participating remotely – many of them in self-quarantine due to exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 – the Senate HELP Committee will hold a hearing on Tuesday, May 12, at 10 a.m. on “Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School.” The witnesses include some of the government’s top public health and research officials.

II. Advocacy

- **CEF Hill Teams meetings this week** – CEF is holding virtual Hill meetings with the congressional offices of four majority members of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees: [Rep. Barbara Lee \(D-CA\)](#), [Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman \(D-NJ\)](#), [Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith \(R-MS\)](#), and [Sen. Marco Rubio \(R-FL\)](#). Members of CEF’s Advocacy and Hill Teams Committee are participating, and we will report back on the meeting outcomes.

III. Events

- **NASSP and LPI briefing on “Principal Turnover: Causes, Impacts, and Solutions” on May 14** – CEF members the Learning Policy Institute and the National Association of Secondary School Principals are hosting a livestreamed briefing to release a report, “Supporting a Strong, Stable Principal Workforce: What Matters and What Can Be Done”— that outlines policy recommendations for Congress, states, districts, and schools to support and retain high-quality school leaders. The event is on Thursday, May 14, 1:30-2:30 p.m. ET. Please [click here](#) for information on panelists and to RSVP.
- **CEF Research Briefing on Education Technology: Equity of Access, Assessment, and Research Findings** – Friday, May 22, 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET. Join online [via Zoom](#) or call 301-715-8592, meeting ID 994 9698 4362. Panelists include:
 - [Verna Lalbeharie](#), Managing Director of Digital Age Personalized Learning, American Institutes for Research
 - [Noelle Ellerson Ng](#), Associate Executive Director of Policy and Analysis, AASA: the School Superintendents Association
 - [Sean J. Smith, PhD](#), Professor of Special Education, University of Kansas
 - Corey Williams, Federal Lobbyist, National Education Association
 - Higher education panelist still pending
- **CEF Friday Zoom meeting schedule** –
 - **Friday, May 15** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom meeting](#). Guest speaker: Mark Laisch, Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee minority staff.
 - **Friday, May 22** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Research Briefing on Education Technology](#): Equity of Access, Assessment, and Research Findings. See details above.
 - **Friday, May 29** – No meeting during scheduled congressional Memorial Day recess.
 - **Friday, June 5** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom meeting. Guest speakers: Emily Smith and Peter Mills, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).
 - **Friday, June 12** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom meeting. Guest speaker TBD.