



I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senate HELP Committee hearing on returning safely to classrooms** – Today at 10am, the Senate HELP Committee is holding a [hearing on “COVID-19: Going Back to School Safely”](#) with witnesses from districts in several states.
- **Revised House schedule for June** – The House has revised its schedule for June and now plans to be in session on June 25 and 26, and to hold votes on June 29. The schedule announced last week did not have the House coming into session until June 30. Last week House Appropriations Committee chair Nita Lowey (D-NY) announced that [fiscal year \(FY\) 2021 appropriations bills will be marked up the weeks of July 6 and July 13](#) and will be on the House floor the following two weeks. From what we are hearing, [there is still debate about whether and how much health funding – for the VA Mission Act and possibly for public health and health research – should be funded outside the cap on non-defense discretionary \(NDD\) funding](#). That decision will affect how much funding under the cap is available for education and other NDD programs in a year when the cap is essentially frozen at the current FY 2020 level.
- **Senate FY 2021 appropriations** – CQ is reporting that the Senate will start marking up its FY 2021 appropriations bills the week of June 22, and some bills may skip the subcommittee markup entirely and start in the Appropriations Committee. Amendments are not traditionally offered in subcommittee. Our advocacy day on behalf of education funding was timely!
- **Educator layoffs** – [Nearly 1.5 million education jobs have already been lost as a result of the pandemic](#). [Labor Department figures for April](#) show more than 1.1 million educator jobs were lost in the public and private sector, in both elementary and secondary education and higher education. Figures released Friday for [May showed more than 300,000 additional local government education jobs lost](#). These frightening employment figures bolster the case for the need for federal support for education.

II. Advocacy

- **Successful CEF virtual Day of Advocacy** – We had a great day of advocacy yesterday, with [50 people participating in 28 virtual Hill meetings](#) (2 more congressional offices had to cancel at the last minute), [lots of social media posts, and emails to Congress](#) courtesy of the advocacy platform generously provided by CEF member the National Association of School Psychologists. It was a great opportunity for CEF to share its resources and message of the importance of increasing federal education funding, which is now more important than ever given the increased costs of providing

education during the pandemic and reopening in an environment with fewer resources. We'll share some outreach numbers once we've tabulated the totals, but this was a great foray into coordinated virtual outreach to Congress. Thanks to all the CEF members, grassroots participants, and interns who made the day possible!

III. Events

- **CEF's upcoming schedule –**
 - **Friday, June 12** – No Friday meeting.
 - **Friday, June 19** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. [Zoom Friday meeting](#). Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Friday, June 26** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Quarterly Committee meeting.
 - **Friday, July 3** – No Friday meeting during congressional Independence Day recess.
 - **Friday, July 10** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. Zoom Research Briefing: The Importance of a Well-Prepared and Diverse Educator Workforce. Speaker details to come.