



## COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

**Thanks to those who have already sponsored CEF's 2019 Gala!**

**Straight "A"s:** American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

**Star Student:** Just added: American Continental Group; American Council on Education (ACE).

**Dean's List:** American Library Association (ALA); Council for Opportunity in Education (COE); MRM Associates/CASE; National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU).

**Honor Roll:** Just added: Bose Public Affairs; Women in Government Relations. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS); National Association of Secondary School Principals/National Association of Elementary School Principals/American Federation of School Administrators; National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP).

### I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Budget Deal or No Deal** – The Administration and Congressional leaders are in discussions seeking a budget deal that would raise the caps on defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding and also increase or suspend the federal debt limit. Members of Congress from both parties want a deal that accomplishes both goals, but yesterday Treasury Secretary Mnuchin suggested that if such a deal can't be reached before Congress recesses for the month of August, then Congress should pass legislation that just addresses the debt limit, which otherwise may be breached in early-mid September. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) continues to say that the House will not pass a stand-alone debt ceiling increase without also addressing the spending caps, which currently require steep cuts (\$54 billion for NDD and \$71 billion for defense) for fiscal year (FY) 2020. One of the sticking points in reaching a deal on the caps is that the Administration insists on offsetting any increase in discretionary spending, something that means cutting mandatory spending, increasing revenues, or possibly extending the discretionary caps at low levels beyond their expiration after FY 2021. Other sticking points remain the question of how much to raise the caps, and whether to raise just the FY 2020 caps or to also raise the FY 2021 caps; all past deals to raise the caps did so for two years at a time.
- **Senate Appropriations** – It's looking like the Senate will not take any action on FY 2020 appropriations bills before the August recess. There had been some talk that the Senate might start work on at least some of the 12 government funding bills even before there was a final agreement on new caps, but now all that work is likely to be postponed until September. Given that the fiscal year ends on September 30, all signs point to the need for a short-term extension of government funding (known as a continuing resolution, as it generally continues funding at current levels) which Congress starts and finishes negotiations on year-long funding, once new caps are set. Absent an

extension of funding, the government would shut down on October 1, something Congressional leaders have said they do not want to happen.

## II. Advocacy

- **CEF's Hill Advocacy Day tomorrow** – Thanks to the many CEF members, out-of-town grassroots members, colleagues, and interns who have signed up to participate in CEF's Hill Day tomorrow afternoon! We have meetings scheduled with 41 congressional offices, targeting new Members of Congress who aren't yet familiar with CEF's advocacy and informational resources, as well as Members of the education funding subcommittees. Sarah has sent information about the schedule and group assignments to everyone participating, so if you signed up but didn't get the information, please contact Sarah immediately ([abernathy@cef.org](mailto:abernathy@cef.org)) and we'll add you to a group!
- **Tweeting to support Hill Day** – We encourage everyone to help amplify our advocacy message on Twitter, where we will be sharing photos and information using #CEFHillDay and #5Cents4edfunding. I've also attached some CEF charts you could include in tweets: the pie chart showing education funding is just 2% of federal funding; the chart showing that current funding for the Department of Education (ED) is still well below the 2011 level in inflation-adjusted terms; and the chart showing how each President's budget proposed to increase or cut funding for ED.

## III. Events

- **CEF's summer research briefings** – In the place of Friday meetings during August while Congress is in recess, CEF will hold two research briefings:
  - **Wednesday, August 7, 10-11:30 a.m. "Early Childhood Education: Federal and State Funding, Unmet Need, and Return on Investment"** at AFSCME, 1625 L Street, NW.
    - Cody Kornack, Senior Manager of Congressional Affairs, National Head Start Association
    - Catherine White, Director of Child Care and Early Learning, National Women's Law Center
    - Barbara Willer, Senior Advisor, National Association for the Education of Young Children.
  - **Wednesday, August 21, 10-11:30 a.m. "Special Education Funding"** at AACTE, 1307 New York Ave, NW. Details to come soon.
- **CEF's schedule for the rest of the summer** –
  - **Wednesday, July 17**, 1-4:30 p.m. CEF Hill Advocacy Day. See above.
  - **Friday, July 19** - 9-11 a.m., at University of California auditorium (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW). Guest speakers: Emily Smith and Mark Ritacco, Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT).
  - **Friday, July 26**, 9-11 a.m., at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker: Joshua Delaney, Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).
  - **Wednesday, August 7**, 10-11:30 a.m., CEF summer research briefing on early childhood education, at AFSCME (1625 L Street, NW). See details above.
  - **Wednesday, August 21**, 10-11:30 a.m., CEF summer research briefing on special education, at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Details still to come.
  - **Friday, September 6**, 9-11 a.m., at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker: TBD.

