



Thursday, July 18, 2019

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

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

Star Student: 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: American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); Bose Public Affairs; 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); Women in Government Relations.

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Preliminary agreement on raising discretionary spending caps** – Today Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced that the Administration and Congressional leaders have reached an agreement on how much to raise the caps on defense and non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding for fiscal year (FY) 2020 and 2021 and to raise the debt ceiling for two years. However, there are still important and possibly difficult details to work out, including what savings to include to offset some or all of the increased spending compared with the sequester-level discretionary caps currently in place. The savings, referred to as offsets for the new discretionary spending, could be in the form of cuts to mandatory spending, extending the discretionary caps beyond FY 2021 when they expire, or increases in revenue. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) has said that she wants to finalize the agreement by tomorrow, which would leave enough time for the House to vote on the bill next Thursday under regular House rules. There are no specifics on what the new cap levels are, but we've heard what we expected all along: that the FY 2020 NDD level likely will be less than the \$34 billion increase over the FY 2019 level that the House approved earlier this year. Democrats have continued to push for equal increases over the sequester caps for both NDD and defense funding, while Republicans had pushed for greater defense increases. After a deal is enacted, the Senate will set allocations for its 12 government spending bills, and the House will have to adjust its previously approved allocations. It's possible that the House will not write new bills to replace the 10 it has already passed, but instead will negotiate compromises with the bills the Senate eventually passes.
- **Seeking your help to grow CEF's membership** – CEF is always looking to expand our coalition of organizations, institutions, and others that share the common goal of increasing the federal investment in education. Please send us any suggestions of organizations you work with that are not yet members of CEF! We're holding a membership outreach lunch with some prospective members on July 30, and would appreciate it if you have any suggestions of others to invite.

II. Advocacy

- **Successful #CEFHillDay yesterday** – Thanks to all the CEF members, out-of-town grassroots members, colleagues, and interns who participated in yesterday's successful Hill Advocacy Day! We had more than 50 people in 13 groups that collectively met with 41 congressional offices, including 15 Senate offices and 26 House offices. We met with staff from a mix of Democratic and Republican 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. We were a visible presence on the Hill and on Twitter, and made some useful new connections and provided some valuable information.
- **New College Affordability Caucus** – In a CEF Hill Day meeting, Jessica Seigel with Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA) shared that Rep. Porter and Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT) will be launching a College Affordability Caucus next week. They are interested in garnering endorsements for the caucus, and would welcome support from outside groups. Rep. Porter was a professor, and Rep. Hayes is a past Teacher of the Year.

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.
 - Myrna Mandlawitz, Council of Administrators of Special Education
 - Other panelists pending confirmationModerator: Valerie C. Williams, National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- **CEF's schedule for the rest of the summer** –
 - **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). See above.
 - **Friday, September 6**, 9-11 a.m., at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker: TBD.

