



COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

Tuesday, September 15, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **House vote on a Continuing Resolution possible next week** – The main order of congressional business for the remainder of this month is to enact a continuing resolution (CR) – an extension of current government funding – before funding expires at the end of this fiscal year on September 30. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) said he would like the House to pass a CR next week, giving the Senate up to a full week to vote on the bill. House Democratic leadership and the Administration have agreed to keep the CR clear of controversial policy provisions, including pandemic relief. Funding for most programs will be frozen at current levels, but the big decision remaining is how long the extension will last. From what we're hearing, the extension will likely last until around December 18, but some Democrats are pushing to have the extension last until Spring, leaving it to a new Congress and possibly a new Administration to finalize fiscal year 2021 funding levels.
- **COVID relief bill not likely until after the election** – With only a couple of weeks before both the Senate and House plan to recess for the election, and with wide disagreement on key topics, it's increasingly seeming that Congress will not pass another pandemic relief bill until November at the earliest. Both the House-passed Heroes Act and the two recent Senate proposals contained between \$100 billion and \$105 billion for education programs, but the House bill contained another \$915 billion for state and local fiscal relief – much of which would likely support education – that the Senate proposals did not include. The most recent Senate proposal also had several provisions that reserve shares of that funding for private schools, including for new private school scholarship funding (that Senate bill did not garner sufficient support to advance for a vote). In short, there is widespread support for education, but not about how much funding will be provided or how it will be allocated.
- **Senate HELP Committee hearing on FAFSA on Thursday** – The Senate HELP Committee is holding a hearing titled "Time to Finish Fixing the FAFSA" at 10am on Thursday, September 17 (it will be livestreamed at the link above). Kim Cook, Executive Director of CEF member the National College Attainment Network (NCAN), is one of five witnesses.

II. Advocacy

- **Meetings with Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations staffers** – Yesterday CEF officers and executive staff held virtual meetings with the Majority and with the Minority staffers of the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees. Both confirmed the widely reported news that work is underway on a "first CR" (some of the 12 government funding bills would need to be extended in a second CR if not all work gets done in time), but that the sticking point is how long the extension will last. It's possible that the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee could post its

proposed fiscal year 2021 bill and Committee report in October, but we do not expect a Committee or Senate vote on that stand-alone proposal (this is what happened last year, too). Unless there is some big change in the discretionary spending caps, they do not expect a big change in the allocation for the Labor-HHS-Education bill. As you may recall, the cap on total non-defense discretionary spending is basically frozen for FY 2021, and the House-passed bill had a modest \$1.2 billion (1.7%) increase over the FY 2020 net funding level for the Department of Education.

- **Upcoming Hill Teams meetings** – CEF's Advocacy and Hill Teams Committee has two meetings scheduled and others still pending confirmation. Today we are meeting with Bradley Solyan with Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL) and next week with Hannah Cornwell with Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA), both members of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees. We will share CEF's advocacy materials supporting a greater federal investment in education, in both the regular funding bills and the next pandemic relief measure, with the meeting participants discussing how their programs work and how students and families would benefit if funding were increased. When we have additional meetings confirmed, we'll email the Hill Teams and Advocacy Committee the details so members can sign up to attend. Please let me know if you would like to join that committee – it helps plan our advocacy and events and has the option of joining Hill visits –and we'll add you to that email list.
- **CEF member of the week on social media: HACU** – CEF is highlighting the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) as our Member of the Week on Twitter and Instagram (please follow CEF @edfunding) and on Facebook (@cmte4edfunding), noting its work during the observance of National Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) week this week. Let us know if your organization is doing any virtual events or education funding-related activities that CEF can highlight on social media: you can submit information on your events at [this link](#). Our goal is to garner more attention to the advocacy, cross-pollinating among our members' networks. We will be in touch with you as we get close to your event to get your material - language and images – that we can use and then link to your own sites.

III. Events

- **CEF Briefing for congressional staff and CEF members on “How Money Matters in Education”** – Wednesday, September 23, 2-3:30 p.m. ET, via Zoom. Please RSVP here - you must register in advance to get the Zoomwebinar link.
Panelists:
 - Dr. Tom Harnisch, Vice President for Government Relations, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
 - Dr. Rucker C. Johnson, Professor of Public Policy, University of California-Berkeley
 - Dr. Jenna Sablan, Assistant Research Professor, Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce
 - David Sciarra, Esq., Executive Director, Education Law Center
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule –**
 - **Friday, Sept. 18** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.
 - **Wed., Sept. 23** – 2:00-3:30 p.m. ET, Zoom Briefing on How Money Matters in Education (see details above, including registration link).
 - **Friday, Sept. 25** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.

- **Friday, Oct. 2** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, [Zoom quarterly committee meeting](#). This is your chance to participate in planning the activities and initiatives for the rest of this year and to provide input for next year's budget and agenda.
- **Friday, Oct. 9** – 9:30-11:00 a.m. ET, Zoom Friday meeting. Guest speaker TBD.