



COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION FUNDING

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congressional Problem Solvers Caucus releases COVID-relief package** – Yesterday the bipartisan congressional Problem Solvers Caucus released the outline for what it billed as a compromise COVID-relief package that is smaller in scope and cost than the House-passed Heroes Act but larger than the recent Senate Republican proposals that did not advance. However, neither Republicans nor Democrats seem inclined to support the proposal, with Democrats wanting Republicans to pass a proposal first and unwilling to come down this far from the larger policies and funding the House passed in May. Democrats have said they'd be willing to support a \$2.2 trillion package; this new proposal is about \$1.5 trillion. The four PDFs attached describe the package, which includes the following education-related funding and policy:
 - \$100 billion for elementary and secondary education
 - \$30 billion for institutions of higher education
 - \$15 billion for child care providers, with \$10 billion for providers and \$5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant
 - \$12 billion for broadband access
 - \$500 billion for state and local aid (a large share of state budgets are used for education), and
 - student loan forbearance extended through the end of the year (the CARES Act relief expires at the end of September)

II. Advocacy.

- **Twitter chat on education funding on Tuesday, Sept. 22** – CEF is hosting a #HearOurEdStories Twitter chat next Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 4-5pm ET, to highlight the importance of education funding as Congress is preparing to extend government funding for at least a few months at a freeze of current funding levels. Later this week we will share sample tweets announcing the chat and the six questions that will be posed, with the hope that your communications staff and membership will be involved in retweeting and answering the questions on Tuesday afternoon. This is a great way to call attention to the need for more funding in the education community.
- **Hill Teams meetings** – CEF's Advocacy and Hill Teams Committee met yesterday with Bradley Solyan with Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL), a member of the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. He reported that they expect by the end of this week to see a draft of a continuing resolution to extend government funding beyond its expiration on September 30, with a vote

planned in the House for Wednesday next week. Rep. Frankel is holding a WebEx townhall meeting this evening to discuss issues as schools open for in-person education in her district next week. We will meet next week with Hannah Cornwell with Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA), both members of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittees. 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 and we'll add you to that email list.

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](#), Senior Policy Analyst, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association
 - [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.
 - **Tuesday, Sept. 22** – 4:00-5:00 p.m., ET, Twitter chat on education funding – full details coming soon.
 - **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.