



Thursday, September 19, 2019

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Senate Appropriations Committee releases FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education bill that cuts Department of Education funding** – Yesterday morning, in advance of the Senate’s procedural move to try to call up the first four fiscal year (FY) 2020 appropriations bills, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the [bill text](#) and [report](#) for a FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. Counting the bill’s \$1.3 billion rescission of previously appropriated funding for Pell grants, the bill cuts discretionary funding for the Department of Education (ED) by more than \$700 million (1% below the FY 2019 level. Funding for almost all education programs is frozen at the current FY 2019 level. Not counting Pell grant rescissions in either year, new discretionary funding for ED is basically frozen. The Appropriations Committee never considered the bill, so at this point it is just a proposal. It seems increasingly likely that the Committee will make some revisions to the way it allocated funding to all the 12 funding bills, with the Labor-HHS-Education bill likely to get an increase. But that may take a while.
- **Attached CEF preliminary funding table** – The attached 4-page CEF table shows the funding levels in the Senate proposal for all the programs that CEF tracks. I’ve highlighted in blue the 14 programs whose funding increased and the three who funding is cut; all other programs we track are frozen at the FY 2019 level. The programs with funding changes are listed below.

The cuts are:

- **\$1.334 billion cut to Pell grant funding** – The bill rescinds \$1.334 billion of previously appropriated Pell grant funding that has not yet been spent, diminishing the size of the so-called surplus. The bill increases the maximum Pell grant award by \$135 but does not provide an increase in new funding, meaning that the bigger award will also be paid for with funds in the surplus.
- **\$250 million cut to discretionary support for the Temporary Public Service Loan Forgiveness program** – The bill provides \$100 million for the program designed to provide loan forgiveness to those who would be eligible for the existing mandatory-funding program except that they made their loan payments under a repayment plan other than the one specified. Congress provided \$350 million in FY 2018 and in FY 2019 for the program.
- **Eliminates the \$18 million Full-Service Community Schools program.**

The ED increases are:

- **\$100 million – student aid administration** goes up to \$1.8 billion.
- **\$50 million – Title IV-A** goes up to \$1.22 billion.
- **\$25 million – Impact Aid** goes up to \$1.5 billion.

- **\$20 million – Charter Schools** goes up to \$460 million.
- **\$10 million – Career and Technical education national programs** goes up to \$17 million.
- **\$10 million – School Safety national activities** goes up to \$105 million.
- **\$9 million – Education for Homeless Children and Youth** goes up to \$103 million.
- **\$2.5 million – Special Olympics** goes up to \$20 million.
- **\$2 million – Special Education technology, media and materials** goes up to \$30 million.
- **\$1 million – FIPSE** goes up to \$6 million for an open textbook pilot.

Other education programs outside of ED that get increases are:

- **\$50 million – Head Start** goes up to \$10.1 billion
 - **\$25 million – Child Care and Development Block Grant** goes up to \$5.3 billion.
 - **\$1 million – Library Services Technology Act** goes up to \$190 million.
 - **\$1 million – Museum Services Act** goes up to \$33 million.
- **Next steps for FY 2020 appropriations** - The Senate had hoped to consider a package of four House-passed bills yesterday, including the Labor-HHS-Education bill, and then move to substitute Senate versions. However, the Senate did not get the necessary 60 votes to proceed. Meanwhile, the Senate Appropriations Committee is marking up its third bill today. Recognizing the reality that none of the 12 government funding bills will be enacted before current funding runs out on September 30, the House is today planning to pass a [bill extending current funding](#) – with some adjustments – that the Senate is likely to consider next week. That bill extends government funding through November 21, providing more time for the Senate to pass its bills and to conference them with the House-passed versions (the House has passed its versions of all but the Homeland Security and Legislative Branch funding bills).

II. Events

- **CEF’s legislative conference yesterday** – We filled the room with advocates and Hill staffers yesterday afternoon at our informative legislative conference. It featured a lot of helpful and accessible information about federal, state, and local education funding, inequities in how it is allocated, issues to think about when measuring outcomes, and what the public says it wants in terms of future education investments. We will share the presenters’ slides next week.
- **CEF’s 50th anniversary gala yesterday** – Thank you to all who sponsored and bought tickets to last night’s gala! It was great to see such a great turnout of the education community and to hear rousing and encouraging words from Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) – CEF’s James G. O’Hara Award winner – and from Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT) and National Teacher of the Year Rodney Robinson. We appreciated the gracious letter from this year’s William H. Natcher Award winner Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), who could not attend as he continues to recover from back surgery. Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) also attended the gala. We plan to post photos on the CEF website next week, and shared some on Twitter yesterday (follow CEF @edfunding to see some of the highlights).
- **CEF’s upcoming schedule** –
 - **Tomorrow - Friday, September 20** – No CEF meeting.
 - **Friday, September 27, 9-11 a.m.** Quarterly Committee meetings at University of California (1608 Rhode Island Ave, NW). This is a chance to provide input for the creation of CEF’s 2020 budget and calendar of events.

- **Friday, October 4** – No CEF meeting during congressional recess.
- **Friday, October 11** – No CEF meeting during congressional recess.
- **Friday, October 18** – 9-11 a.m. at AACTE (1307 New York Ave, NW). Guest speaker TBD.