



Tuesday, November 13, 2018

I. Policy Intelligence and Education News

- **Congress is back in session this week** – Senators and Representatives from the 115th Congress are back in Washington this week, along with the 92+ Senators-elect and Representatives-elect for the 116th Congress. The former will return to pending legislative business, including the need to pass 7 of the 12 appropriations bills funding government agencies for the fiscal year (FY) that started on October 1. With only a handful of legislative days between now and December 7, when the current extension of government funding for those 7 bills expires, it's possible that there will be at least another extension for at least some of these bills before the 115th Congress wraps up. One of the most contentious issues is how much funding to provide for a southern border wall in the Homeland Security appropriations bills.
- **House leadership elections** – Those who will be in Congress next year will turn to the process of selecting their leaders starting this week. House Democrats will hold their leadership elections on November 28, while House Republicans will hold their elections this week. The lineups will likely be:
 - House Democratic leadership:**
 - Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), who is the only person to have officially announced for the position, although there is still a lot of conversation about possible challenges;
 - Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD);
 - Majority Whip – Reps. James Clyburn (D-SC) and Diana DeGette (D-CO) have announced for the position;
 - Assistant Democratic Leader – Reps. David Cicilline (D-RI) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM) have announced for the position;
 - Caucus Chair – Reps. Barbara Lee (D-CA) and Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) have announced for the position; and
 - Caucus Vice Chair – Reps. Katherine Clark (D-MA) and Pete Aguilar (D-CA) have announced for the position.
 - House Republican leadership:**
 - Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), who is being challenged by Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH);
 - Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA);
 - Conference Chair Liz Cheney (R-WY). Current Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) plans to seek a ranking member position on the Energy and Commerce Committee instead of this leadership post;
 - Conference Vice Chair Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC); and
 - Conference Secretary Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO).

- **Final notice: nominations to run for CEF's 2019 Board due on Thursday** – If you are interested in serving on CEF's Board next year, please email your nomination form by COB Thursday, November 15, to Claire Shanklin at Shanklin@CEF.org. The explanatory memo and nomination form are attached. The Update on October 4 lays out the process and specifics in detail, and CEF staff is happy to answer any questions.
- **CEF job board** – We are happy to post job vacancies for CEF members on the members-login part of the [CEF website](#). There are a number of openings, including:
 - **National PTA** – [Manager, Government Affairs](#) and [Advocacy Strategist](#)

II. Advocacy

- **CEF letter to OMB Director Mulvaney on FY 2020 budget** – CEF has sent a [letter](#) to OMB Director Mulvaney urging that the President's fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget increases investments in education and raised the austerity-level spending cap on non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding that would otherwise require a \$55 billion cut in NDD funding for FY 2020. We expect one of the early policy discussions in the 116th Congress will center around raising the NDD and defense caps for FY 2020 and FY 2021. CEF will continue to point out the importance and benefits of education investments, despite the President's instructions to all agencies to cut their budgets by at least 5% in the Administration's FY 2020 budget request, which is due to Congress by February 5, 2019.
- **Hill Teams visits resume** – Members of [CEF's Hill Teams will meet tomorrow with Adrienne Walker in the office of Rep. Kay Granger \(R-TX\)](#), one of the Republicans interested in being the Appropriations Committee ranking member next year. We are working to schedule other meetings and will share sign-up information with Hill Teams members once the meetings are set. We won't know until much later which members have been added to the Appropriations Committee and who is newly assigned to the Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee.

III. Events

- **CEF's upcoming schedule** –
 - **Friday, Nov. 16**, 9-11am, at AFSCME, 1625 L St, NW, 1st floor conference room. Guest speaker: Donni Turner, Senate Budget Committee Democratic staff; (tentative) Steve Townsend, Senate Budget Committee Republican staff.
 - **Friday, Nov. 23** – No CEF meeting while Congress is in recess for Thanksgiving.
 - **Friday, Nov. 30**, 9-11am, at AASCU, 1307 New York Ave, NW, auditorium. Guest speaker: TBD.
 - **Friday, Dec. 7**, 9-11am, at AFSCME, 1625 L St, NW, 1st floor conference room. Guest speakers: (tentative) Democratic staff of the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

My best,

Sheryl

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