

Washington Update June 15, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

1. **Spending Bill Clears House Appropriations Subcommittee – Some Early Good News for Education But Overall Bill Raises Concerns**

This morning the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS and Education took the first step toward a FY 2019 spending bill. With all Republicans supporting the bill and all Democrats opposing the bill, and multiple controversial amendments guaranteed for full committee markup next week, the final shape of the bill is yet to be determined. The good news in the bill for education is that multiple programs were either flat funded or increased and the President's request to cut education funding by almost \$8 billion was rejected. The bill increases education funding for the Department of Education by \$43 million over FY 2018.

The bad news is that the bill overall received no increase over last year, so the Departments of Labor and HHS took numerous hits. This is a key reason why Democrats opposed the bill. They argued that they should have gotten an increased allocation for the total bill, commensurate what that provided to other subcommittees, of about \$2 billion. In fact the Senate subcommittee's allocation is \$2 billion over last year.

While the tables that list specific programs will not be available until next week, we do have some information about key programs. For example:

Title I, ESSA:	Flat funding at \$16.4 billion
Special Education, Part B:	up \$50 million to \$12.3 billion
Impact Aid:	up \$52 million to \$1.47 billion
Title IIA, ESSA:	Flat funding at \$2.05 billion
Title IVA, ESSA:	up \$100 million to \$1.2 billion
Charter schools:	up \$50 million to \$450 million
TRIO programs:	up \$50 million to \$1.1 billion
GEAR UP:	up \$10 million to \$360 million
Institute for Education Sciences:	Flat funding at \$613 million
Special Ed Research:	Flat funding at \$56 million

Office for Civil Rights:	Flat funding at \$117 million
Personnel Prep IDEA:	up \$5.3 million to \$89 million
State Personnel Development IDEA:	up \$1.4 million to \$41 million
Teacher Quality Partnership Grants:	Flat funding at \$43 million

Remember, this is just the beginning of a long process. Next steps: House full Committee markup next week and Senate Subcommittee markup the week of June 25.

For a video of the markup and copy of the bill see:

<https://appropriations.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=395350>

2. PROSPER Act: ALERT CONTINUES

In the last couple of weeks, House Republican leaders have been counting votes to see if they have enough support to bring the PROSPER Act to the House floor for a vote. The results of “whip votes” (informal internal vote counts) are not public, and it is unknown if/when the bill will move to the floor. Opposition continues to increase with the Department of Defense opposing the bill as well as multiple veterans groups. In addition, student body presidents of the Big Ten universities wrote to Congress opposing the bill. Since the House leadership experienced a public failure of the farm bill after bringing it to the floor last month, they are likely cautious about another embarrassment.

However, the alert continues, as things can change quickly and Chairwoman Foxx (R-NC) continues to look for support from her colleagues and promote the bill with House leadership.

The PROSPER Act (H.R. 4508) is a bill which reauthorizes the Higher Education Act and eliminates every provision targeted to support teacher candidates, educator preparation and transformative programs, such as residencies, loan forgiveness and TEACH grants. The bill was passed out of the Committee on Education and the Workforce last December with all Republicans supporting it and all Democrats opposing it. Needless to say, it is a totally partisan bill. It represents federal policy that will exacerbate the teacher shortage as well as lowered enrollment in teacher preparation programs around the country.

This is a good time to let your Representatives know of your concerns with the bill. You can do that by going to AACTE's advocacy center; just click below. This will be one minute very well spent!!

ACT NOW

See: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/06/14/no-movement-prosper-act-after-gop-vote-count>

3. Senate HELP Committee to Mark Up Career and Technical Education Bill June 20

Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee Lamar Alexander (R-TN) announced that the long awaited markup of a bill to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act will take place June 20. President Trump's daughter, Ivanka, has been meeting with Senators to "discuss the urgency" of reauthorizing this bill. President Trump tweeted that she "Had great mtgs w/ @Senator Enzi @DougJones @Senator Hassan & @Senator Baldiwn to advance this critical leg & ensure access to high-quality vocation ed for 11M+ Americans!" Sen. Alexander responded tweeting "Thank you @IvankaTrump for your leadership to update this important law for students and adult workers."

The bill has been languishing since June 2017 when the House passed a bipartisan bill (HR 2353) to reauthorize the law. A key sticking point has been how much authority the Secretary of Education would have over enforcement. Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) have been leading negotiations to come up with a bipartisan bill since the House passed their version of the reauthorization bill a year ago. The hope is that the bill the Senate considers will be bipartisan.

See: https://www.help.senate.gov/hearings/s3029-s1222-s808-s3039-s____-a-bill-to-reauthorize-the-carl-d-perkins-career-and-technical-education-act-and-nominations

4. New Resources for Educators

- **Council of Chief State School Officers** is offering a webinar on June 26 between 3-3:30 ET **Prioritizing Inclusive Principal Leadership: Resources and Opportunities**. This webinar will introduce CCSSO's new online guide [*Supporting Inclusive Schools for the Success of Each Child: A Guide for States on Principal Leadership*](#). Strategies to promote inclusive principal leadership in policy and practice to improve outcomes for students with disabilities will be highlighted.

Register at <https://ccsso.webex.com/ccsso/PrioritizingInclusivePrincipalLeadership>

- **The Center for American Progress** has released a *Fact Sheet on Teacher Pay* demonstrating how underpaid teachers are as a profession. For example, the average starting salary for a teacher in 35 states is under \$40,000 and so many teachers must work a second job to make ends meet. See:
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/education-k-12/reports/2018/06/14/452130/fact-sheet-yes-increase-salaries-teachers/>

Have a great weekend! I'll be attending the high school basketball tournament my son is running. For basketball fans, check it out <https://capitolhoops.com/?p=7020>

Happy Father's day to all!

See you on twitter @janewestdc

Best,

Jane