

The Education Report

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Congress Remains in Limbo Regarding Appropriations Bills and Lame Duck Session

With 10 days left until the end of the fiscal year, speculation about the probability of funding the government with a long term continuing resolution and/or the occurrence of a lame duck session is running high. None of the required 13 FY 03 appropriations bills have yet been completed. Congress is scheduled to adjourn October 4th and Members are eager to return to their districts to campaign for re-election in November.

On Thursday afternoon, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young (R-FL) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) met to discuss a possible continuing resolution (CR) that would continue FY02 funding past the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30). Congressional aides are indicating that there seems to be a growing consensus that Congress will have to pass two short-term CRs, one extending to October 4th and then another extending to October 11th. If Congress is still unable to complete all of its work on the appropriations bills by October 11th, then it becomes more complicated. Congress will either come back for a short period in November to pass a long-term CR, or it will remain in session to try to finish work on the remaining appropriations bills before the Christmas holiday. Congressional sources have also said that the first two short-term CRs would simply carry over current FY02 funding levels, however it remains unclear whether a long-term CR would also be subject to FY02 funding levels. On Thursday, OMB Director Mitch Daniels stated that the White House would support a long-term CR once the Defense spending bill is completed, but that funding levels in it should not exceed the FY03 budget total advanced in the House and supported by the administration.

The current situation surrounding FY03 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations can safely be described as a mess. On Tuesday, the Committee for Education Funding (CEF) held a legislative conference that included a panel to discuss the prospects for the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. Panelists discussing these issues included: Cheryl Smith, House Labor-HHS-ED Appropriations Committee, Minority Staff; Eric Fatemi, Senate Labor-HHS-ED Appropriations Committee, Majority Staff; and Denzel McGuire, Senate HELP Committee, Minority Staff.

Cheryl Smith stated that the House has not passed or even marked up a Labor-HHS-ED bill in subcommittee because many believe that the bill introduced by Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young (R-FL), H.R. 5320, does not spend enough on

education. The bill mirrors the President's request. According to staff, this bill will not come to the House floor anytime soon.

Eric Fatemi noted that the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved its Labor-HHS-ED Appropriations bill (S. 2677) in July. He indicated that as a point of order the House would normally pass its bill before the Senate took action on their version, but given the current situation in the House, the Senate will most likely choose to deal with its bill prior to House passage. Senate Appropriations Committee staff are now indicating that the Senate may consider its version of the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations as early as next week.

Denzel McGuire stated that she believes that October 11th is a realistic target date for adjournment. She indicated that the President's budget displays his commitment to education given the budget shortfalls caused by the slowing economy and the current war on terrorism. She mentioned that education spending has increased at a more rapid pace than any other discretionary program besides the National Institutes of Health over the past six years, and that there is something to be said for the fact that the President maintained current spending levels on education. She stressed that any cuts made in the Bush budget were made in programs that the administration felt were duplicative, and/or were made in order to address the Pell Grant shortfall.

Panelists predicted that if we do have a bill, it will likely end up somewhere between the amount included in the Senate version and the amount requested by the President.

In the meantime, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Edward Kennedy (D-MA) continues to build momentum for an amendment to the Senate bill that would increase spending on education by an additional \$4.5 billion. Education groups are working to gain support for this amendment and to ensure the passage of an actual bill. Enactment of a CR is not supported by education organizations, as it would freeze funding at current levels and the momentum for enactment of increases would be lost.

New Offices at Department of Education

This week Secretary of Education Rodney Paige announced reorganization at the Department of Education, prompted in part by the No Child Left Behind Legislation and reflective of new Bush Administration priorities. First, there will be established an Office of Innovation and Improvement which will be headed by a new Deputy Under Secretary. To quote Secretary Paige, the new office will be "a nimble, entrepreneurial arm" of the Department that will guide "strategic investments in promising practices". Among its core goals will be the following: making strategic investment in promising educational practices; providing leadership for parental options, information and rights; focusing the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education on large-scale reform; and relieving the Office of Educational Research and Improvement of programmatic responsibilities. This office will be headed by Nina Reese—currently Deputy for

education issues to Vice-President Cheney. Nina is well known to the education community as she played a key role in developing the NCLB legislation; worked on the Bush election campaign as the education expert; and was a researcher for several years at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

The second announcement was an Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools. This too will be headed by a new Deputy Under Secretary. All activities related to the creation of safe schools, crisis response, alcohol and drug prevention, character and citizenship education will be located in this office. This office will also take the lead for the Department in related Homeland Security initiatives. Specific goals include: developing a comprehensive safe schools and citizenship strategy; addressing emerging needs; identifying and promoting promising prevention practices; and coordinating with other federal agencies. Appointed to head this office is Eric Andell, a Senior Policy Advisor to Secretary Paige.

Listed below are the specific programs that will be moved to these 2 new offices, and those that will be going to the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE):

Program	Innovation	Drug Free	OESE
Arts in Ed Research	X		
Dropout Prevention	X		
Gifted and Talented	X		
Smaller Learning Communities	X		
American History	X		
Advanced Placement	X		
Arts in Ed	X		
Close Up	X		
Whaling Partnerships	X		
RIF	X		
Magnet Schools	X		
Public Charter Schools	X		
School Leadership	X		

	Innovation	Drug-Free	OESE
Transition to Teaching	X		
Voluntary Public School Choice	X		
Troops to Teachers	X		
Charter Schools Facilities	X		
Safe and Drug Free Schools		X	
Physical Education		X	
School Counselors		X	
SERV		X	
Character Education		X	
Civic Education		X	

FIE	X	
National Board for Professional Teaching Standards	X	
National Writing Project	X	
Ready to Learn TV	X	
Ready to Teach	X	
Star Schools	X	
ENC	X	
Eisenhower Regional Consortium		X
Comp School Reform Clearinghouse		X
Facilities Clearinghouse	X	
R-TECHs		X
Correctional Education (OVAE)	X	

Education Bills Move Forward

In separate action this week, two Senate Committees moved education reauthorization proposals closer to enactment. Late on Wednesday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee introduced a bill to reauthorize the Office of Educational Research and improvement. A mark-up of that legislation is now scheduled for Wednesday, September 24th. The House of Representatives adopted a companion bill to reauthorize OERI in May.

The Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, which has joint jurisdiction with the HELP Committee over the National Science Foundation, adopted legislation to reauthorize NSF at a session on Thursday, September 19th. Consideration by the HELP Committee was completed last week. The bill is now ready to move to Senate floor consideration. A companion measure was adopted by the House of Representatives last spring.

Bush Introduces American History and Civic Education Initiative

In a Rose Garden event on Tuesday, President Bush announced three new programs intended to increase students' knowledge and proficiency in American history. Claiming a basic lack of civic understanding by American school children, President Bush pledged federal support for educating elementary and secondary students better about American history and civics.

The first initiative, entitled "We the People" will be lead by the USA Freedom Corps. In collaboration with the National Endowment for the Humanities, it will offer grants for inventive curricular development; hold training seminars and conferences for teachers at the elementary, secondary and undergraduate levels; organize a series of lectures given by well-respected historians; and offer a national essay contest for high school students on the principles and ideals of America.

The second initiative, "Our Documents," will present important national documents from the National Archives to students and teachers on the Internet. It will also provide lesson plans and guided discussion topics in concert with the online database. The last initiative will be a White House American history and civics forum early next year.

Committee for Education Funding Holds Annual Washington Gala

The Committee for Education Funding held its annual Legislative Conference and Gala on Tuesday, September 17, at the Hyatt Regency Washington. This year, over 500 people packed a hotel ballroom to see four members of Congress awarded the William H. Natcher Distinguished Service Award. They are Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND), Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) and Rep. Ralph Regula (R-OH). Representative Mike Honda (D-CA) was awarded the Outstanding New Member Award and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) provided the keynote speech.

Sen. Kennedy raised the roof with a stirring speech, demanding that the Congress be held accountable for fully funding the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). He urged education advocates to support an amendment to increase funds in the Senate Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill so that the mandate of NCLB and the promise of IDEA can be kept. Sen. Conrad, chair of the Senate Budget Committee, was honored for championing the \$6.8 billion increase for education spending in the Senate Budget Resolution. In his remarks, Sen. Conrad shared how his family had prized education as he was growing up and that he knew from first hand experience what a difference a good education makes in the life of a child.

A former principal and teacher, Rep. Regula, chair of the House Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Subcommittee was honored for his education funding leadership. He was central to securing the \$1 billion increase in supplemental appropriations for Pell grants. Sen. Susan Collins was acknowledged for stepping out on a limb in opposition to many of her Republican colleagues, in supporting the Harkin/Hagle IDEA full funding amendment. She was also helped secure \$162.5 million in FY 02 for the Rural Education program.

Sen. Clinton noted that without proper funding the NCLB would be nothing but a "cruel hoax" played upon students, teachers and school officials. She challenged those at the conference to adopt NRA (National Rifle Association) levels of intensity in lobbying efforts and make education funding a pivotal issue in the November elections.

Senate Push on IDEA Slows

The Senate appears to be slowing down in its move to introduce an IDEA reauthorization bill this year. Citing the desire to generate the best possible bill and in the most bipartisan fashion, HELP Committee staff have acknowledged that a bill may not be forthcoming before Congress goes into pre-election recess. The House Education and the Workforce Committee continues in IDEA reauthorization discussions, but would not likely act in the face of a Senate decision to slow down. Both chambers may decide to

wait and see what the President proposes for IDEA reauthorization in next year's 2004 budget request.

Heritage Foundation Issues IDEA Funding Report

Issued on September 10, 2002, "Making Good on Promises to Increase Funding for Special Education," calls for increasing IDEA funding by eliminating funding for other education programs. The report lists 26 programs which should be ended, including Women's Education Equity Act, Gifted and Talented, Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology, Civic Education, School Counseling, National Writing Project, Rural Education, Community Technology Centers, Arts in Education and the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. The report chastises the Senate for enacting a Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill that continues funding for "an array of education programs, many of which have had negligible impact and are based on rationales that are at best questionable." The report calls upon the House of Representatives to "target" education spending and cut even more programs that the President's budget requests.

The report can be found at: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Education/bg1585.cfm>

Congressional Briefing on Girls and Women with Disabilities Held

On September 19th, the Congressional Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues hosted a briefing entitled "Girls and Young Women with Disabilities" in the Rayburn House Office Building. Sponsored by the Center for Women Policy studies, the briefing featured three speakers who addressed the issues and challenges faced by girls and women with disabilities. In virtually every aspect of life, females with disabilities face the dual challenges of discrimination related to being both female and disabled. Yet there is little research to answer questions related to women with disabilities.

Presenters noted that compared to nondisabled women, disabled women experience a 20 to 30% lower employment rate. They are less like to work full time and less likely to earn as much as disabled men. Girls are under-represented in special education and often drop out of high school because they become mothers. Few role models are present for young girls with disabilities in either K-12 schooling or higher education. Ivonne Mosquera, a young blind woman who climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and earned a BA in mathematics from Stanford University, reported that her professors were totally unprepared to teach a student who was blind. She recommended that faculty become more knowledgeable about the Americans with Disabilities Act and programs and services that might support students with disabilities, such as vocational rehabilitation. She noted that lack of access to assistive technology and books in alternative formats is a significant barrier for college students with disabilities.

The Center for Women Policy Studies has several publications related to girls and women with disabilities. They can be found at www.centerwomenpolicy.org

New Report on The Potential of Technology to Transform Education

At a joint press conference this week, Secretary of Commerce, Don Evans, and Deputy Secretary of Education, Eugene Hickok, released a report on the potential revolutionizing of education that new technologies provide which was produced through the cooperation of these two agencies of the government. The report, titled "2020 Visions; Transforming Education and Training Through Advanced Technologies" is a compilation of essays by a wide variety of technology and education experts, including Harvard Professor Chris Dede and Microsoft's Randy Hinrichs. In his remarks at the press conference Evans warned that technology is not a "silver bullet" for education but it does offer ways to "transform human endeavors" and have a "profound effect on American competitiveness and our standard of living".

Hickok emphasized that the report speaks to the power of technologies to "allow us to achieve the same goals through very different means". The report questions the need to continue building new schools and classrooms and reflects on the potential of the Internet to provide constant individualized information and entertainment to students.

For a copy of this report go to www.ta.doc/Reports.htm

Research Finds Nine Hours of Sleep Critical for Success in School

The National Center on Sleep Disorders Research (NCSDR) of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) reports that school-aged children need to form a sleep routine that consists of at least nine hours of sleep each night. Adequate sleep is directly linked to school performance, health, and safety, and insufficient sleep is said to cause attention problems in the classroom and difficulty controlling emotions.

To coincide with the new school year, the NCSDR has launched a contest with Paws, Inc., the producers of the Garfield the Cat cartoons, entitled "How I Get a Heap of Sleep." The contest asked children between the ages of 7 and 11 to tell Garfield three things they do before going to bed each night to help them sleep. The contest is just one project of many associated with the NHLBI initiative "Sleep Well. Do Well. Star Sleeper Campaign."

The Campaign offers parents simple tips to make bedtime for their children easier, such as getting rid of distractions in the child's bedroom, take some "quiet time" before bedtime, and don't feed your child a substantial meal too close to bedtime. For more information, visit the Star Sleeper website at <http://starsleep.nhlbi.nih.gov>