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Federal Newsletter on Education as shared by COSSBA – July 19, 2022

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKS UP FY23 LABOR-H BILL

Both the House and Senate returned to Washington, DC, last week and quickly set the rumor mill buzzing about what might be happening on several legislative fronts of interest to the education advocacy community.

Regarding FY 2023 appropriations, the House is planning to vote on its first package of bills this week. A six-bill package will reportedly include the Agriculture, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Interior, Military Construction-Veterans Affairs and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending plans. House Appropriations Committee Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) has said publicly that she would like to pass all 12 FY 2023 spending bills before the August recess.

Before the July 4 break, the House Appropriations Committee approved all the FY 2023 funding bills. However, bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on topline spending numbers have stalled. Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-VT), who has been recovering from hip replacement surgery, is reportedly planning to skip Senate mark ups of bills and simply release Senate proposals by the end of this month.

Education advocates continue to hope that a final Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriations bill will include the increases in Department of Education spending approved by the House Appropriations Committee. It seems unlikely those levels will be in the final bill. And enactment of a final bill will almost certainly not come until after the November elections, and maybe not until 2023.

A slimmer reconciliation package was being negotiated last week by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV). Details of the proposal change by the hour, and last week's report on record-breaking inflation affected Senator Manchin's support for various elements. By Friday, it appeared that the West Virginia lawmaker would only support lowering prescription drug prices and extending Obamacare subsidies, at least until he sees next month's inflation numbers. The package's fate remains unclear.

Lastly, the many different interests and advocates who have been watching negotiations on the competitiveness legislation heard what some might consider disappointing news by last week's end. After months of talks on thousands of provisions, Senate leaders — with backing from the White House

— were crafting a bill that focuses on the needs of the semiconductor industry and spends \$52 billion to alleviate its woes. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo has been making the rounds on Capitol Hill to build support for this approach. There are some indications that lawmakers might return to other provisions in the fall, but STEM education advocates and others are concerned that removing the relief for the semiconductor industry from the negotiations also removes any urgency for passing a would-be second bill.

According to the Congressional calendar, the House will be in session for two more weeks before leaving for the August recess. Their Senate colleagues have three more weeks of work. Those weeks will be busy ones.

ED TO GRANT \$68M TO SUPPORT STUDENTS, FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

On Tuesday, July 12, the Department of Education (ED) announced that it is requesting applications for the Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) grant program that provides academic support and strengthens connections among schools, parents and families, and their surrounding communities. These grants align with the Biden-Harris administration’s work to scale evidence-based approaches to support students’ academic, social, emotional and physical well-being. The program will award \$68 million to support community schools across the country. Through this commitment, ED will help spur the planning and capacity-building, development, implementation, operation and coordination of effective services for children and families, particularly in urban and rural areas with high rates of poverty. FSCS requires grantees to provide a continuum of coordinated supports to students that include social, health, nutrition and mental health services and supports. “These grants will help community schools provide quality wraparound services to students and their families, from access to health care and nutritional assistance, to tutoring and enrichment opportunities, to mental health supports and violence prevention programs,” said Secretary Miguel Cardona. Read the full press release [here](#). Learn more about the Full-Service Community Schools Program [here](#).

NEW AMERICA EXAMINES EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS

On Wednesday, July 13, New America’s Center on Education and Labor held a webinar titled, “Educator Apprenticeship for Youth and Adults.” The event examined apprenticeship programs as a solution for states and school districts grappling with teacher shortages and the need to diversify the teaching profession. The event featured Taylor White, director of the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship and senior advisor for K-12 and workforce policy at New America; Sean Impeartrice, chief academic officer for the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System; Meaghan Sullivan, executive director of CareerWise Colorado; and Amaya Garcia, deputy director of preK-12 at New America. White highlighted the five components of an apprenticeship, which include full-time jobs, on-the-job learning in a work setting, job-related classroom training, mentor guided learning, and industry-recognized credentials. Garcia examined Grow Your Own (GYO) programs, underscoring program partnerships between school districts, educator preparation programs and community-based programs to encourage local students to become educators at schools they attended in the communities where they grew up. Garcia explained that GYO programs leverage the assets of local individuals in the community, which eases training due to district familiarity. Garcia also noted that GYO programs can address teacher and geographic shortages, as well as diversify the teacher population to better match

student demographics. Impeartrice followed Garcia, emphasizing the diversity fostered through GYO programs. He touted the Fresno Unified School District for creating a teacher pipeline pathway. Impeartrice referenced wrap-around supports as a driver for successful GYO programs. Lastly, Sullivan examined the CareerWise youth apprenticeship programs in Colorado, which strive for two goals: diversify the program’s career options and change the stigma around apprenticeships. Sullivan additionally examined educator pathways and “employer led efforts,” which provide educators with apprentices who have the opportunity to obtain their Bachelor’s degree while working for the school district. You can find an archived recording of the event [here](#).

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES ENGAGE EVERY STUDENT INITIATIVE

On Thursday, July 14, the Department of Education (ED) held an event to launch the Engage Every Student Initiative, which will ensure every child has a spot in a high-quality afterschool program. The event featured Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, who was joined by the Afterschool Alliance, the School Superintendents Association (AASA), the National League of Cities, the National Summer Learning Association, and the National Comprehensive Center at Westat. Cardona underscored the importance of out-of-school time programs for children significantly affected by the pandemic. “Right now, for every child enrolled in a program, three more are left out of these opportunities, which is the exact issue that the Engage Every Student Initiative seeks to address,” Cardona said. The launch event also featured statements from Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Senator Tina Smith (D-MN). Both Congress members spoke to the importance of afterschool programs. They highlighted funds made available through the American Rescue Plan and additional funding from ED made available to out-of-school programs. The event also highlighted two panels featuring Robert Blaine, director of NLC’s Institute of Youth, Education, and Families; Gladys Cruz, AASA president-elect; Eric Billet, an expanded learning specialist at the Minnesota Department of Education; Laveta Wills-Hale, network coordinator at the Arkansas State Afterschool Network; Suzette Harvey, president and CEO of Primetime in Palm Beach County; Angela Henry, director of SAFE BASE; Matt Hathaway, founder of Teachers in the Park; and Angeles Mejia, a current high school senior who participated in the HANDY afterschool program. Blaine touted the role city mayors play in leading afterschool program initiatives, building networks across cities, and targeting communities that have historically been left out of high-quality programs. Cruz voiced that learning should be aligned with the workforce and highlighted the paid youth apprenticeship program she developed in her community. Billet emphasized youth engagement and Wills-Hale urged afterschool network stakeholders to take advantage of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Mejia, a high school senior, applauded the HANDY afterschool program in Broward County, Florida, for its positive and personalized environment, while Harvey and Henry discussed in detail the opportunities that quality afterschool programs can provide for children and young adults. Hathaway emphasized an educator’s role in out-of-school time initiatives and accentuated the need for robust resources so teachers can amplify educational outcomes.