

Good Monday Morning. Below is the November 25, 2019 Federal Advocacy & Public Policy update. Last week the House and Senate passed a temporary spending measure to allow the Federal Government to remain in operation until December 20, 2019. Congressional leaders hope to pass a final Fiscal Year 2020 budget after the Thanksgiving holiday.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Have a very good week and holiday!

Best,

JT

## **Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update**

November 25, 2019

### **Congressional Update**

#### **House and Senate Leaders Pass Temporary Funding Deal**

This week, the House (231-192) and Senate (74-20) passed HR 3055 to avoid a government shutdown and extend funding at current levels until December 20. President Trump signed the measure last night. Though the funding has been temporarily extended until December 20, there is no guarantee that congressional leaders will be able to overcome the policy and political hurdles that have impeded the process all year, which could mean that federal programs will continue operating at FY19 levels well into 2020.

#### **House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Holds Hearing Regarding FCC**

The House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee is expected to hold a hearing with the full Federal Communications Commission including FCC Chairman Ajit Pai on December 5. This will be the second time the Chairman has provided testimony to this committee. We expect the hearing to include discussions on the recently released report from the Government Accountability Office which made recommendations on how the FCC can better police fraud in its broadband subsidies program.

#### **House Education Committee Postpones Student Loan Hearing**

The House Education and Labor Committee postponed their hearing this week titled "‘With Extreme Displeasure’: Examining the Education Department’s Refusal to Provide Debt Relief to Defrauded Students." Secretary DeVos had been invited to provide testimony but was not planning to attend. Chairman Scott anticipates that the hearing will be rescheduled for December 12.

### **Administration Update**

#### **Department of Education Released Updated College Scorecard**

The Department of Education [released](#) an updated version of the College Scorecard. The new data includes student success. The "Scorecard's search function in general is more intuitive and dynamic than before, allowing prospective students to more easily find and compare schools that meet their needs." Students and their parents can now search for schools by acceptance rate, ACT/SAT scores, and location (including a "close to me" feature). The update also includes data on student debt load and earnings by field of study.

#### **Federal Trade Commission Releases "Social media Influencers" Guidance**

The Federal Trade Commission released [guidance](#) regarding "social media Influencers Disclosures." The guidance will affect educators that participate in ambassador programs with companies. It will also provide direction regarding social media use and when and how to appropriately disclose relationships, benefits, and endorsements received from companies on social media.

### **Notable K-12 Bills**

[H.R.5206](#) To amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to establish a fund to provide support services for individuals participating in certain training activities under such Act. Sponsor: [Rep. Smith, Adam \[D-WA-9\]](#)

The Department of Education [released](#) an updated version of the College Scorecard. The new data includes student

[H.R.5204](#) To direct the Secretary of Education to study student mental health at institutions of higher education and to issue guidance on compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for mental health and substance use disorder policies of institutions of higher education, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Rep. Porter, Katie \[D-CA-45\]](#)

[H.R.5171](#) To permanently authorize the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. Sponsor: [Rep. Dean, Madeleine \[D-PA-4\]](#)

[H.R.5148](#) To improve program integrity through State evaluation of institutions of higher education, requirements for student complaint submissions, and the establishment of policies and procedures to address closure of institutions of higher education, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Rep. Levin, Mike \[D-CA-49\]](#)

[S.2899](#) A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support apprenticeship programs. Sponsor: [Sen. Bennet, Michael F. \[D-CO\]](#)

[S.2887](#) A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to address and take action to combat rural teacher shortages across the United States. Sponsor: [Sen. Jones, Doug \[D-AL\]](#)

[S.2857](#) A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to count military and veterans' education benefits as Federal educational assistance, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Sen. Carper, Thomas R. \[D-DE\]](#)

J.T. Kessler  
Government Relations Specialist  
Virginia School Boards Association  
200 Hansen Road, Suite 2  
Charlottesville, VA 22911  
800-446-8722 or 434-295-8722 Office  
434-295-8785 Fax  
jason@vsba.org, www.vsba.org