

Subject: Federal Advocacy Report- February 29, 2020

Good Saturday Morning! At the conclusion of this message is the February 29, 2020 Federal Advocacy & Public Policy update. One item to note is on Wednesday, March 4, the House Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee is holding a hearing titled "Reauthorizing the National Apprenticeship Act (NAA): Strengthening and Growing Apprenticeships for the 21st Century." This hearing will begin at 10:15 a.m. Please see the announcement in the report for more information.

If you have any questions regarding this week's update, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for all you do on behalf of public education in Virginia. Have a good weekend!

Best,

JT

Federal Advocacy & Public Policy Update

February 29, 2020

Congressional Update

House Appropriations Committee Announces Vote Schedule

The House Appropriations Committee is planning to vote on each of the 12 spending bills that fund federal operations, including the U.S. Department of Education's programs, between April 28 and May 19. NSBA expects the votes to occur on April 28, 29, May 13, 14, and 19, however no further details are available at this time regarding which bills will be taken up on each day. Yesterday, Secretary DeVos testified before the committee about the president's fiscal year 2021 budget request (see more detail below). The committee will hear additional testimony in the coming weeks, before turning to the ambitious voting schedule outlined above. During this period, NSBA will be meeting with Members of Congress to talk about school boards funding priorities, including ESSA Title I-A and the other major education formula programs.

House Appropriations Subcommittee to Hold Hearing Regarding Childhood Poverty

The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a hearing (Tuesday, March 3 at 10am ET) titled "Reducing Childhood Poverty." Witnesses will include: Dolores Acevedo-Garcia (Professor of Human Development and Social Policy, Brandeis University), Autumn Burke (Assemblywoman, 62nd Assembly District, California State Assembly), Kathryn Edin (Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs, Princeton University), Irwin Garfinkel (Professor of Contemporary Urban Problems, Columbia University), and Matt Weidinger (Rowe Fellow, American Enterprise Institute). The hearing will be livestreamed [here](#).

House Education and Labor Subcommittee to Hold Hearing on the National Apprenticeship Act

The House Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee is holding a hearing titled "Reauthorizing the National Apprenticeship Act (NAA): Strengthening and Growing Apprenticeships for the 21st Century." The hearing was originally scheduled for February 27 but committee leaders rescheduled the discussion for March 4 at 10:15am ET. The hearing is a precursor to expected bipartisan committee work to update the NAA, including by emphasizing high need areas, such as early childhood educators. We expect Chairman Scott (D-VA) and Ranking Member Foxx (R-NC) to release draft apprenticeship legislation for public comment later this year. Witnesses have not yet been announced. The hearing will be livestreamed [here](#).

House Appropriations Subcommittee Holds Hearing on FY21 Department of Education Budget

This week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing to learn more from Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos regarding the administration's FY21 Department of Education Budget. In her opening statement, Chairwoman DeLauro (D-CT) criticized the administration's proposed budget cuts, noting that this funding is desperately needed by children and students across the country. Ranking Member Cole (R-OK) noted that much of the proposed budget supports individualizing education for students. He went on to say that some of the bold changes proposed in the budget he agrees with but warned the Secretary that the elimination of ESSA programs into a combined block grant is not advisable. The archived video of the hearing and Secretary DeVos' written testimony can be found [here](#).

Administration Update

Department of Education Announces Title IX Enforcement Initiative

The Department of Education [announced](#) a new Title IX enforcement initiative, led by the Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR), to combat the rise of sexual assault in K-12 public schools. The Department said the "initiative will enhance OCR's enforcement of Title IX in both elementary and secondary public schools and strengthen the ability of schools to respond to all incidents of sexual harassment and assault".

USED Creates Guidance Document Portal

The Department of Education [announced](#) the creation of a new guidance portal aimed at making it "easy for the public and other stakeholders to locate the Department's guidance documents." Previously, guidance materials were only accessible through the individual webpages of the various offices of the Department.

Department of Education Forms Coronavirus Task Force

In response to growing concerns about the spread of the COVID-19 virus around the globe, and potential implications for spread of the virus within the United States, the Department of Education announced a Coronavirus task force, to be led by Deputy Secretary of Education Mick Zais. The task force is designed to coordinate the department's response to any spread of the virus in U.S. schools.

New Legislation

[H.R.5961](#) Student Apprenticeship Act of 2020 Sponsor: [Rep. Khanna, Ro \[D-CA-17\]](#)

[H.Res.864](#) Supporting the goals and ideals of Career and Technical Education Month. Sponsor: [Rep. Langevin, James R. \[D-RI-2\]](#)

[H.R.5950](#) FAS School Meals Improvement Act Sponsor: [Rep. Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho \[D-MP-At Large\]](#)

[S.3333](#) A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the implementation of curricula for training students, teachers, and school personnel to understand, recognize, prevent, and respond to signs of human trafficking and exploitation in children and youth, and for other purposes. Sponsor: [Sen. Murkowski, Lisa \[R-AK\]](#)

[S.3328](#) A bill to award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy programs to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language. Sponsor: [Sen. Schatz, Brian \[D-HI\]](#)

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
