TO: National Career Development Association- Government Relations Committee
FROM: Advocacy Associates, LLC
DATE: April 26, 2012
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

On the Hill

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget:

Bigger picture developments in the FY2013 budget process include:

- Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND) offered a version of a debt reduction plan initially proposed by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, which was formed in 2010. This plan, known as the "Simpson-Bowles" plan after the chairs of the Commisson, proposed a range of cuts and tax increases, including $200 billion in cuts in discretionary spending, mainly focused on discretionary defense programs. It is suggested that Senator Conrad's motivations were to confront Republican accusations that the Senate was not moving on a budget resolution. The move was largely symbolic as no amendments were allowed and no votes are expected on the bill. Nevertheless it gives an indication of the tenor of the budget debate in Washington, D.C.

- The Senate Appropriations Committee held a hearing on Thursday April 19th that set a specific funding level of $157.7 billion for the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education appropriation bill ("Labor HHS"). This is known as a "302(b) allocation" and represents an increase of $1.5 billion over the current level. The Senate Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee must develop a bill that adheres to the $157.7 billion level.

- Meanwhile, during the week of April 16th, the House of Represenatives approved an overall level of federal discretionary spending for FY2013 of $1.028 trillion. Since the House discretionary spending cap is $19 billion below the Senate, the House 302(b) allocations, to be established in the near future, will likely be lower.

Important Legislation:

H.R.4227 Workforce Investment Act of 2012 (Minority Proposal)

On March 20, Rep. John Tierney (D-MA) introduced H.R. 4227, Workforce Investment Act of 2012. The bill proposes to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and would streamline and improve the workforce investment system, improve system accountability, and promote innovation and best practices within the workforce investment system. H.R. 4227 has been referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and has 2 cosponsors: Rep. George Miller (D-CA) [Ranking Member of Education and Workforce

Committee] and Rep Ruben Hinojosa (TX-15). NCDA leadership should consider meeting with either of these legislative offices to discuss provisions of the bill related to career development.

H.R. 4297 Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012(Majority Proposal)

On March 29, 2012, Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) introduced H.R. 4297, the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012. This bill is the Republican version of the WIA reauthorization and proposes to consolidate more than 20 programs into one flexible Workforce Investment Fund. H.R. 4297 has 2 cosponsors: Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV) and Rep. Howard P "Buck" McKeon (R-CA).

***Update: The National Skills Coalition has created a chart showing what programs will be consolidated under this reauthorization, as shown below.

Program	FY 2012 Appropriations*	HR 4297	Notes
WIA Adult	$770,811,000	$0	
WIA Youth	$824,353,000	$0	
WIA Dislocated Workers	$1,232,217,000	$0	
Employment Service/Wagner-Peyser Funded Activities	$721,754,000	$0	
H-1B Job Training Grants	$125,000,000	$0	Mandatory funding, not appropriated. FY 2012 total taken from President Obama's FY 2013 budget request.
SNAP Employment & Training Program*	$397,904,505	$0	FY 2012 funding levels not yet available. Used FY 2010 levels for purposes of comparison. Bill language does not make clear whether SNAP E&T funding would be considered part of Workforce Innovation Fund.
Senior Community Employment Service Program	$448,251,000	$0	
Brownfield Job Training Cooperative Agreements	$11,500,000	$0	FY 2012 est. per CFDA
Women in Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Occupations (WANTO)	$996,000	$0	
Veterans Workforce Investment Program	$14,594,000	$0	
WIA Pilots and Demonstrations	$6,603,496		
Community-Based Job Training Grants	$0	$0	Not funded in FY 2012; authorized under current section 171(d) of WIA
National Farmworker Jobs Program	$84,291,000	$0	
Reintegration of Ex-Offenders	$80,238,000	$0	
Native American Employment and Training	$47,562,000	$0	
Grants to States for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Individuals	$17,186,000	$0	FY 2012 est. per CFDA
Job Corps	$1,702,947,000	$0	
YouthBuild	$79,689,000	$0	
Conservation Activities by Youth Service Organizations	$0	$0	FY 2012 est. per CFDA
Second Chance Act Prisoner Reentry Initiative	$63,000,000	$0	
Refugee and Entrant Assistance - Targeted Assistance Grants (formula)	$43,561,000	$0	Per ACF budget
Refugee and Entrant Assistance - Social Services Program	$153,406,513	$0	Per ACF budget
Refugee and Entrant Assistance - Targeted Assistance Discretionary Program	$4,840,000	$0	Per ACF budget
Workforce Innovation Fund	$49,906,000	$0	
Green Jobs Act	$0	$0	Congress has never funded. Authorized under section 171(e) of WIA
National Institute for Literacy	$0	$0	Not funded in FY 2012; authorized under current section 242 of WIA.
Youth Opportunity Grants	$0	$0	Not funded in FY 2012; authorized under section 169 of WIA.
Vocational Rehabilitation Programs (not included in the Workforce Investment Fund)			
Projects with Industry	$0	$0	Consolidated into Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants
State Supported Employment Services Program	$29,068,000	$0	Consolidated into Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants
In-Service Training of Rehabilitational Personnel	$5,327,000	$0	
VR Recreational Programs	$0	$0	

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDING FOR CONSOLIDATED PROGRAMS, 2012 **$6,880,610,514**

Source: National Skills Coalition
www.nationalskillscoalition.org, accessed 4/23/2012

House Education and Workforce Hearing on "Workforce Investment Act of 2012 (H.R. 4297)"

On April 17, 2012 the House Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing on the Workforce Investment Improvement Act of 2012. The panel included:

- Ms. Norma Noble, Deputy Secretary of Commerce for Workforce Development (Oklahoma), Governor's Council for Workforce and Economic Development
- Ms. Laurie Moran, President of the Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)
- Mr. Andy Van Kleunen, Executive Director, National Skills Coalition
- Ms. Sandy Harmsen, Director, Workforce Development for San Bernardino County

Committee Chairman Kline's (R-MN) opening statement addressed the need to rein in a "bureaucracy that squanders taxpayer resources, stifles innovation, and stands in the way of the help and training workers need." He cited numerous programs with different federal directives and concluded that most of the money spent on workforce training is wasted on red tape.

Ranking Member Miller's (D-CA) opening statement spoke to the need to make smart investments in the workforce and to improve accountability in the workforce system. He outlined specific points he would like addressed during the WIA reauthorization including:

1. Establishing a system that also provides for the most disadvantaged
2. Increasing accountability
3. Supporting successful programs
4. Involving all stakeholders in the system
5. Encouraging a long term vision of skills attainment
6. Creating a system that gauges demand from industry

Rep. Miller does not believe H.R. 4297 addresses all of the above concerns.

The hearing played out according to the opening statements of the chairman and ranking member. There was a general consensus among the witnesses that there should be more local control over spending as well as an agreement on a need to consolidate many of the programs within the workforce system. Ms. Noble made the point that there is no "overall" vision for the programs which would be very helpful in cross program coordination. Mr. Van Kleneun also raised concerns that the consolidation of various programs would result in underserved groups being further ignored because they are often the most difficult to assist. Interestingly, witnesses were asked if there are ideas in the minority's WIA proposal that should be considered in this bill. Of the witnesses, only Mr. Van Kleneun said yes.

As Advocacy Associates monitors the WIA reauthorization, we will work to identify important policy issues to NCDA in order to send related letters of support or opposition to members on the committee. NCDA should also look to partner with other organizations, such as the National Skills Coalition, the American Counseling Association or ACTE in order to make the greatest impact as Congress moves forward.

Off the Hill

Meeting with Deputy Secretary Oates' Office

Advocacy Associates is currently working to set a date for a meeting with Tom and Pat regarding implementation of recently passed unemployment legislation as well as possible updates to the One-Stop website. Current dates under consideration:

Monday, 5/7 - between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 5/9 - between 1:30 and 5:00 p.m.
Friday, 5/11 - between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.
Monday, 5/14 - between 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Hill Staffers Briefing

Advocacy Associates is currently working with ACA to discuss whether and how to move forward on a career counseling session designed for Congressional staff .

Congressional Allies and Connections with the Career and Technical Education Caucus

As WIA legislation begins to make its way through the process, Advocacy Associates will work with NCDA to identify potential political allies and/or a career development champions, including those on the CTE Caucus. States that have several members on the committee include CA, KY, OH, PA.

The Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops (TAP)

As discussed in previous updates and calls, the TAP is purposed with assisting returning veterans find employment after his or her military service. A point of particular interest to NCDA is how veterans receive individualized skills assessment and evaluation relative to the current job market. This is done through an online survey called Employment Readiness Survey (ERS). The workshop website can be viewed here and the introductory video describing the ERS can be seen here.

Advocacy Associates proposes working with NCDA to contact the Department of Labor (DoL) and/or DOD to determine how career counselors can serve as additional resources for returning veterans in the context of this program.