



TO: National Career Development Association- Government Relations Committee
FROM: Advocacy Associates, LLC
DATE: February 1, 2012
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

Elementary and Secondary Education Act Reauthorization Update

On January 6th, House Committee on Education and the Workforce Chairman John Kline (R-MN) introduced two more pieces of legislation in the committee's effort to reauthorize ESEA through a series of smaller bills. The discussion drafts of the *Student Success Act* and the *Encouraging Innovation and Effective Teachers Act* are focused on increasing flexibility for states and school districts to encourage and support successful teachers and providing information about teacher effectiveness to parents. In the *Encouraging Innovation and Effective Teachers Act*, the only mention of school counselors is in reference to giving parents increased opportunities to engage with school staff, including "teachers, school leaders, counselors, administrators, and other school personnel."

It is still *H.R. 1891 Setting New Priorities in Education Spending Act*, the first in the series of education reform bills introduced last year, which poses the largest threat to school counselors by proposing to eliminate the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling program. While this bill was passed by the Committee back in June, it has yet to go to the House floor for consideration.

Fiscal Year 2012 Final Appropriations:

On December 17th, 2011, final appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012 became public law. Fiscal Year 2012, which began on October 1st, 2011, was funded through a series of Continuing Resolutions until Congress reached an agreement over two months later. Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education was funded at \$156.3 billion, \$1.1 billion below Fiscal Year 2011 and \$24.5 billion below the President's request. Most of the cuts are consistent with the mandatory spending cuts that were set by the Budget Control Act, or the "debt ceiling agreement". Two programs that lost more than the mandatory percentage were the WIA Dislocated Worker program, which was cut by \$55 million, and the new Workforce Innovation Fund that was established in 2011 to provide grants to promote innovative strategies to workforce development and training, including career counseling services. That program was cut from \$125 million to \$50 million.

The discretionary spending cap for Fiscal Year 2013 is already set in place at \$1.047 trillion due to the Budget Control Act.

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Proposal:

The President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Proposal will be submitted to Congress on February 13th, 2012. The release date was pushed back from the original February 6th date in order to "finalize technical and programmatic decisions," according to the Office of Management and Budget. During his State of the Union address, the President encouraged Congress to streamline job training programs to give job seekers "one program, one website, and one place" to meet their needs. This statement suggests that the President's budget proposal may include components that reflect some of the workforce development legislation introduced by House republicans last year, mainly *H.R. 3610 The Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act*, which would consolidate 47 federally-funded job training programs and roll them into four larger Investment Funds.