



NCDAA Monthly Report

Greetings!

In February, the Lobbyit team engaged on veteran issues, as well as the apprenticeship push by the Administration.

Stakeholder Activity

In the month of February, Congress finally secured a deal to set the spending levels for FY18 and push the cliff of the "debt ceiling" to 2019. Unfortunately, there were additional crisis that arose and distracted Congress so that now we are facing another crunch to authorize spending and keep the government open after the middle of March. In February, the President released his budget and announced additional details about his infrastructure plan. Now, Congress will need to determine how much of the budget they will agree with, all indications are that there is plenty they will disregard as they negotiate among themselves to set the spending levels for FY19. Based on February developments, we anticipate that the big issues which will dominate the legislative calendar in the coming months will be the passage of a spending deal, figuring out what to do about DACA recipients, appropriation negotiations, cutting deals to address mistakes and oversights in the tax package that passed last year, and a determination if some deal can be struck over infrastructure.

The Lobbyit team worked to expand our outreach on NCDAA's behalf during the month of February. A primary focus for our team these past several months has been engaging the Administration regarding their efforts to expand apprenticeships in the United States. In

follow-up to the letter that we sent the Department of Labor, the Lobbyit team met with Laurie Rowe, the Senior Advisor to the Secretary, who was brought into the Department to oversee the Apprenticeship Task Force and other efforts coming out of the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). She reports directly to the Secretary. Also in the meeting, was the Administration and Deputy Chief of the ETA. They were very helpful in building our understanding as to what the Department's priorities are and the type of assistance that they are going to be providing to the private sector.

During the meeting, we discussed whether the efforts by the Department are going to be expansive enough to include the pre-apprenticeship phase, specifically as it relates to the points in the decision-making process that certified career professionals can be involved. We were told that the efforts by the Department are fairly expansive but also that the Department of Education is involved in the conversation. As a follow-up to this meeting, we are now working to schedule a meeting in April between GR Committee members and ETA officials, in order to get into more details and better identify which parts of the ETA would be best for us to engage in. We want to ensure that we have a firm grasp of the structure of the ETA, especially as it will be once the new apprenticeship model is underway. We hope to build on this new relationship and potentially also engage the Department of Education, it will depend on our takeaways from the April discussion.

Additionally, we have engaged representatives from the NCDA Veterans Committee, who have an interest in engaging the House and Senate in efforts to improve veteran services, specifically the Transition Assistance Program. To this end, we met with Senator Kaine's office to discuss a bill that he has introduced, among others on this topic, that expands the availability of OneSource to veterans for a longer time period after separation. He has a very good relationship with key staffers on the Armed Services Committee, and one of the bills the Senator introduced will be part of the authorization bill when it becomes law. We are currently working to plan a small "hill day" for the representatives from the Veterans Committee and any GR Committee members that want to attend. The Lobbyit team is still taking preliminary meetings in an effort to identify the best member offices and staff to meet with, so as to make the Hill day the most productive. Our goal is to ensure that NCDA's perspective is at the table as these discussions continue to occur.

Legislative Activity

[H.R. 719 - A PLUS Act](#)

Representative Mark Walker (R-NC) introduced the bill on January 27th, 2017. On the day it was introduced, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The bill currently has 31 cosponsors.

This bill allows each state to receive federal elementary and secondary education funds on a consolidated basis and manage the funds to advance the educational policy of the state. A declaration of intent must be formulated by a combination of specified state officials or by referendum and must list the programs for which consolidated funding is requested. States may use such funds for any educational purpose permitted by state law, but must make certain assurances that they will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures, abide by federal civil rights laws, advance educational opportunities for the disadvantaged, and use federal funds to supplement rather than supplant state funding.

Related Bills: [S. 221-A PLUS Act](#)

[S. 206 - JOBS Act of 2017](#)

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) introduced the JOBS Act of 2017 on January 24th, 2017. On the day it was introduced, the bill was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. The bill currently has 5 cosponsors.

This bill amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to

establish the Job Training Federal Pell Grant Program. The Department of Education must award job training Federal Pell Grants to eligible students. An eligible student is one who does not have a degree, attends an institution of higher education (IHE), is enrolled in a job training program at such IHE, and meets all other eligibility requirements for a Federal Pell Grant. The maximum job training Federal Pell Grant award is 50% of the discretionary base maximum award specified in annual appropriations law.

Related Bills: [H.R. 2451 - Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act](#)

[H.R. 1286 - Pell Grant Funding Act](#)

Representative Ron Kind (D-WI) introduced the Pell Grant Funding Act on March 1st, 2017. On the day it was introduced, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. There are no cosponsors.

Requires the Secretary of Education to utilize excess revenue from the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program to carry out the Federal Pell Grant Program.

Related Bills: [H.R. 1880-College for All Act of 2017](#)

Until next month,

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