



NCDAA Monthly Report

Dear Paul,

In the month of July, we worked with the Government Relations Committee to begin the process of developing proactive tools to use in our goal of getting NCDAA a seat at the table for important issues. The first such step was developing a list of NCDAA members that can speak on behalf of the Association and develop appropriate bios.

Advocacy Updates

During the month of July, the focus in DC began to shift more and more towards the upcoming elections. That doesn't mean that there isn't work left to be done but more that with each vote and bill introduced, the calculations are more complicated and tend to weigh more heavily towards what will play well in the election. That is why in July House Republicans began circulating draft language that would serve as a tax cut 2.0 bill package. This would deal with issues that they feel will help them in the election, including the child tax credit and increasing the charitable contribution deduction. A big bipartisan accomplishment in July was the passage of the Perkins Act which reauthorized and reformed career and technical education funding in the US. This had broad support on both sides of the aisle and after a breakthrough in negotiations about some unrelated issues, the bill passed and went to the President's desk for a signature.

The Administration also introduced a plan that would reorganize the federal government. Among the changes the plan laid out was the merger of the Education and Labor Departments. This plan obviously sparked backlash from all sectors, with members on both sides of the aisle indicating that it was unlikely to ever see the light of day in Congress, which would have to approve such monumental changes to the structure of the federal government.

On the health-front, the Administration continued its efforts to undermine and rollback the Affordable Care Act with the rollout of short-term limited duration health plans and association health plans. Neither were received extremely well, including among groups that have historically supported friendlier regulations of these plans, particularly association health plans. In addition, multiple states came out them and said that they would impose additional restrictions on these plans than the federal government would and that enrollment in these plans would drive up rates as more healthy people pulled out of existing plans. Additional reports point to the fact that they may not offer the cost savings that the President has promised, especially when taking into consideration the fact that coverage provided could be quite minimal.

Finally, two purely political documents were released, one by the House Democrats and the other by the House Republicans. The GOP released an infrastructure framework that will likely serve as a starting point for negotiations in the new Congress. The plan includes raising the gas tax and fully funding the Highway Trust Fund in the next decade. The House Democrats released their version of higher education reauthorization. After House Republicans were unable to get sufficient votes to pass their version, everyone has accepted that negotiations on this issue will start

up again in January and the Democrats have taken this opportunity to lay out their vision for how higher education should be restructured and funded in the US.

As we look forward, we want to ensure that NCDA has a seat at the table on the important issues. We started that process with our engagement of the Department of Labor and were successful in beginning high-level relationships with leadership of the key agency within the Department that handles apprenticeships, Employment and Training Administration. Moving forward, we are working with the Government Relations Committee to draft a list of experts that can speak on behalf of the Association and outlining what issues they are most knowledgeable about. The next issue that we are working to engage Congress on is the Transition Assistance Program and urging Congress to ensure that credentialed professionals are a part of any counseling reforms and requirements. To that end, we began meeting with Congress and our first meeting was with the Ranking Member, on the House side, of the subcommittee that oversees TAP, Congresswoman Speier. We met with her staffer who was happy to hear from us and learn about who we are and what we stand for. He didn't know who had been the lead champion on the NDAA counseling language but indicated that the Congresswoman is supportive of the issue and that he would like for us to stay in touch and provide input. It should be noted that if the House flips to the Democrats, this office will be the gatekeeper on these issues starting in January. We have additional meetings lined up on this topic and will continue to work with the Government Relations Committee.

Until next month,

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