

THE HILL REPORT











NCDA Monthly Report

Dear Paul,

As anyone who watches the news knows, the latter half of September was dominated by the Supreme Court confirmation process. After smooth sailing and what seemed to be a sure confirmation, things got much more complicated for Judge Kavanaugh than anyone anticipated. In the end, the Judge was confirmed to the Supreme Court but the scrutiny on law makers and the focus on the upcoming election have not diminished.

Advocacy Updates

Entering the month of September, there were a number of things on the Congressional docket that the House and Senate wanted to focus on. In the House, Republicans weighed passing what was called Tax Cut 2.0. After some back and forth, House leadership did decide to do it. The proposal would make the individual changes in last year's bill permanent, including the \$10,000 annual cap for state and local deductions. That passed the House but there is no expectation that it will be brought up for a vote in the Senate, due to not enough support.

Another issue that faced Congress, was keeping the government open past Sept. 30th. The Republicans did not want to face the prospect of shutting down the government just a few weeks prior to an election. The President was also convinced of this

viewpoint. The House, Senate, and the White House struck a deal that keeps the lights on until December. At that point, House leadership and the President have already promised to fully hash out the President's demand for southern border wall funding. Currently, there does not seem to be a clear winning compromise that will satisfy the pushback from Democrats and the funding request from the White House.

With funding the government completed, the House left DC until the election. The Senate stuck around until Judge Kavanaugh was confirmed and left shortly afterwards. Now, all eyes are on the midterms. The final outcome is still in much doubt, but it seems that all the polls point to the Senate remaining under the control of the GOP and the House flipping to the Democrats. However, the only thing that has a high degree of certainty is that the Democrats pick up seats in the House, outright control is not guaranteed. The final outcome will have a tremendous impact on the next two years. If the Democrats have control of the House, the GOP-led Senate and President Trump will have to play ball with them. The government needs to be funded, there is a debt ceiling coming, the national flood insurance program needs improvements, and there are many promises that President Trump will want to keep as he looks towards the 2020 elections. If the Democrats fall a few seats short, a smooth legislative agenda is still not guaranteed for the GOP. The House Freedom Caucus is growing increasingly agitated and it remains to be seen which Republican can rise to the leadership with the support of enough votes to not need the support of Democrats. Either way, the next congressional session will be a test for Senate GOP Leadership and President Trump's deal-making abilities.

During the month of September, our team worked with the GR Committee to further deepen the relationship that we started with the Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration office. As a result of meetings earlier this year, we have been able to get senior members of ETA to commit to attend the upcoming NCDA conference next year and present to the attendees. In September, we participated in a conference call with DOL to nail down additional details and further the process along. We are excited that NCDA and DOL are establishing more formalized and hopefully long-term ties.

We also sat down with Representative Bacon's staff to discuss transition assistance for separating armed services members. Representative Bacon was one of the two offices that provided the language that was passed in a bill earlier this year that implemented a lot of reforms to the transition program. His staff was very happy to meet with us and indicated that he'd never heard of NCDA and wasn't knowledgeable in the career development profession. He would like to partner with us going forward and we believe that this office could serve as a strong champion for our recommended reforms to the program in the future.

As we finish out 2018, our team will continue to take meetings around the Hill, in an effort to identify which pieces of legislation are likely to be reintroduced in the new Congress and present them to the GR Committee for prioritization. In January, things will happen very quickly and we want to be well positioned to have an impact that benefits NCDA's membership.

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