



TO: National Career Development Association- Government Relations Committee
FROM: Advocacy Associates, LLC
DATE: March 12, 2012
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

On the Hill

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget:

The president's budget was released mid-February and we are currently waiting for the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to release its scoring of the President's budget on March 13, 2012. There will be a flurry of activity following the CBO's report.

As noted in our last legislative update, the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling program will now fall into the Supporting Student Success and under a part of the grant called Sustainable, Safe and Healthy Students. The President did not propose an actual funding level for ESSCP; instead he proposed an overall funding level of \$198 million for all of the programs that fall under Sustainable, Safe and Healthy students and suggested that specific funding levels be established through ESEA reauthorization. This may be an issue because ESSCP does not necessarily have to get funded at all; the money could instead go to other programs within the grant program.

In the Department of Labor, the budget proposal does not try to consolidate any WIA programs and it also proposes to restore the funding to the Workforce Innovation Fund and Youthbuild, which both lost money in 2012. Additionally, the budget proposes to maintain funding for Jobs Corps, which is the largest federal training program for at-risk youth, ages 16-24. The budget proposal also introduces a new \$1 billion Veterans Job Corps program designed to put up to 20,000 veterans to work over the next five years on projects to preserve and restore national parks and other federal, state and local lands.

On March 20, House Budget committee chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) will be releasing his own spending proposal for the FY 2013. There is strong anticipation of major spending cuts being proposed, with budget caps around \$1.028 trillion. This would require the Appropriations committee to find an extra \$19 billion in cuts across the board, but most cuts are likely to come from domestic programs. There are members on both sides of the aisle who are uncomfortable with this proposal.

Virginia Foxx Letter:

In early February, 2012 Rep Virginia Foxx (R-NC) submitted a [letter](#) to Labor Secretary Hilda Solis requesting more information on the President's Jobs training proposal. Although Rep. Foxx commends the President for the job training initiative, she states that there are duplicative job training programs that are a drain on the budget. She also mentions legislation that addresses the duplicative issue that her committee is currently considering. These items include The Workforce Investment Improvement Act (H.R. 2295), The Streamlining Workforce Development Programs Act (H.R. 3610), and The Local Job Opportunities and Business Success (JOBS) Act (H.R. 3611). All three pieces of legislation are still in committee and do not seem to be moving.

Important Legislation:

H.R.3989, Student Access Act

On February 9, 2012, Rep. John Kline (R-MN) introduced H.R. 3989, The Student Access Act. The House Education and Workforce committee held a full committee hearing and markup of the bill on February 28. The bill is now up for amendments, none have been offered yet.

The legislation is aimed to amend sections of ESEA to allow for local and state governments to have more control over education policy. The bill also includes provisions that require states to create unique standards of student assessment as well as eliminating federal oversight mechanisms for school progress and teacher effectiveness.

H.R. 3989 had ten co-sponsors: Rep. DesJarlais (R-TN), Rep. Heck (R-NV), Rep. Hunter (R-CA), Rep. Kelly (R-PA), Rep. Noem (R-SD), Rep. Petri (R-WI), Rep. Roby (R-AL), Rep. Roe (R-TN), Rep. Thompson (R-PA), Rep. Wilson (R-SC)

S. Amndt. 1738 to S.1813 Federal Highway Reauthorization Bill

On March 8, 2012, Sen. Tom Coburn's (R-OK) amendment to the Senate's Highway Reauthorization Bill was defeated. The amendment looked to eliminate \$10 billion in discretionary spending by eliminating "duplicative" government programs. Cuts would have taken effect during this year's appropriations process. Under this amendment, the administration would have had 150 days to identify where the cuts could come from or there would be automatic cuts. The bill need 60 votes to pass and received 52 yeas votes.

S. Amndt had two co-sponsors: Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI), Sen. McCain (R-AZ)

Senate HELP Committee Hearing on "The Key to America's Global Competitiveness: A Quality Education"

On March 8, 2012 the Senate committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions had a full committee hearing. The committee panel included:

- Jennifer Mann, Vice President of [SAS Institute](#)
- Charles Kolb, President of the [Committee of Economic Development \(CED\)](#)
- Erica Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow at [Hoover Institution](#) in Stanford University
- Richard Murnane, Professor of Education and Society at [Harvard University Graduate School of Education](#)

There are two important points to note from this hearing. First, there was a strong urgency among panelists that there needs to be an ESEA reauthorization. The general consensus among the panelists is that the United States is falling behind in education and ESEA reauthorization is an important step forward. Second point was made through the success stories that both panelists and Senators told throughout the hearing. The successful schools or programs mentioned during the hearing had a common method. Before beginning classes, students had to identify potential careers he or she is interested in. Once possible career paths were established, students took classes that were related to finding a job after secondary education or on a path to the intended career.

Although career counselors were not mentioned, it may be worth sending a letter to Chairman Harkin (D-IA) and Ranking member Enzi (R-WY) regarding how career counselors in secondary education play an important part in the employment identification process for students across the country.

Off the Hill

Department of Labor Letter

We revised a letter drafted by NCDAs board member Charles Lehman to Assistant Secretary Oates at the US Department of Labor. The letter is the first step in creating a relationship with the Department of Labor, more specifically the Employment and Training Administration, while they work to create rules and enact legislation.

Career One Stop Website: Possible Action Items

NCDAs may want to consider reaching out to the Department of Labor to see if there is interest in or support for adding a link or section to Career One Stop website that connects job seekers with a career counselor in the area. Link could be similar to the "Find SBDC" link on the Small Business Administration's [website](#) that redirects the user to the Association of Small Business Development Centers.