



Federal News & Information – July 4, 2022

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARKS UP FY23 LABOR-H BILL

Last week, House appropriators were busy with committee work while their Senate colleagues were in recess. The committee cleared several bills last week, including the FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill, setting the stage for July spending debates on the House floor. On Thursday, June 30, the House Appropriations Committee advanced the FY 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) spending bill after a five-hour markup. The bill provides a total of \$242 billion, an increase of \$28.5 billion (13%) over the final FY 2022 levels. For the Department of Education, the bill provides \$86.7 billion, an increase of \$11.3 billion (15%) over the final FY 2022 levels.

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) opened debate thanking Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK) for his cooperation and willingness to bring the bill forward. She highlighted several education programs supported by the bill, including early childhood education and childcare, \$20.5 billion for Title I, \$17.8 billion for special education programs, and a \$500 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award. Cole reciprocated his thanks to the chairwoman, highlighting cooperation on several programs covering early childhood, special education, TRIO and GEARUP. However, he announced his intention to oppose the bill in its current form.

Several other Democrats and one Republican rose to offer opening statements. These included statements of support by Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA) for the Job Corps program and Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) for addressing school-to-prison reforms and teacher training programs. In addition, Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA) expressed support for childcare, especially Head Start, while Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) shared her support for funding supporting the social and emotional needs of children and students as a result of COVID, as well as funding for mental health programs focused on minority populations. Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL) voiced her support for student veteran centers located at institutions of higher education. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) enumerated his support for the funding provided for English language learner programs, the Teacher Quality Partnership Program, and support for Hispanic-serving and minority-serving institutions. Amendments were offered and focused on current events (with a few exceptions) and were disposed of along party lines. The underlying bill passed by a party line vote of 32 Democrats in favor and 24 Republicans opposed. It is expected that the bill will be considered on the House floor after the July 4 break. The Senate outlook is unclear and the Senate Appropriations Committee has yet to move forward with its proposed 302(b) funding levels.

A press release summarizing the bill can be found [here](#). An archived recording of the House proceedings can be found [here](#). The bill text can be found [here](#), and the committee report can be found [here](#).

Also last week, STEM education advocates and others sought information regarding progress on the negotiations of the competitiveness package. Lawmakers are being told to complete talks and get the

compromise package through the two chambers this month. Staff report that issues that were not resolved by Friday would not be included in the sweeping bill. More details on what is in and what is out should be revealed in coming weeks.

The House and Senate are in recess this week and will return July 11. July will certainly be a busy month. The August recess is the unofficial deadline for getting various bills done. September will see members of the House and Senate more eager to be on the campaign trail than in Washington, DC.

Budget Chart: [FY 2023 Spending for Selected Federal Investments](#)

KNOWLEDGEWORKS EXAMINES PERSONALIZED, COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION

On Wednesday, June 29, KnowledgeWorks and the Education Commission of the States (ECS) cohosted a webinar titled, “2022 Legislative Update: Personalized, Competency-Based Learning Policy Trends.” The event featured Emily Brixey, senior manager of policy, advocacy and research for KnowledgeWorks; Ben Erwin, policy analyst for ECS; and Jon Alfuth, director of state policy for KnowledgeWorks. Alfuth began by commending the record-high U.S. public high school graduation rates, which were at 86% during the 2018-19 school year, the highest since the 2010-11 school year. Despite these exceptional rates, Alfuth continued, the U.S. is seeing a growing percentage of students enrolled in remedial courses. The solution, he asserts, is personalized, competency-based education, which incorporates engaging and customized learning experiences for individual student needs and recommends the advancement to higher levels of learning with the demonstration of mastered knowledge and skill sets. Brixley and Erwin examined their respective organizations’ state education policy tracking, which tracks state education policy on a wide variety of education topics. They also underscored the role comprehensive state data systems play in personalized learning and tied it to a teacher’s ability to use this data as a guide to shift instruction to meet the needs of every student. Brixley and Erwin examined other aspects of personalized learning, including assessments of mastery, which reflect the degree of mastery of competencies, where if a student does not earn course credit, records indicate competencies that need to be re-learned, instead of the entire course. They additionally examined flexible learning pathways as a way to accommodate student needs and interests and the importance of an equitable range of learning experiences at school. In closing, they highlighted legislation in Florida, Maine, New Jersey, Utah and Arizona designed to incorporate and improve personalized, competency-based learning in schools. Learn more about KnowledgeWorks [here](#).