



October 2015 Public Policy Update

Congress

Perkins Shows Signs of Life

Last week the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee reached out to the CTE community seeking input on its eight priorities for Perkins Reauthorization.

1. Make it easier for States and locals to run their CTE programs to serve all students who desire to gain access to CTE coursework, including students with disabilities;
2. Increase access to, and support of, career counseling for all CTE students;
3. Maintain CTE as a formula program;
4. Align with ESEA and WIOA (where applicable) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the education and workforce development programs;
5. Support the expansion of public/private collaborations with secondary and post-secondary programs, including alignment with State or locally-determined in-demand industries and occupations;
6. Support efforts to integrate into and strengthen career pathways at the state and local levels;
7. Address unfunded programs;
8. Improve evaluation and research to support innovation and best practices.

In response to this request NAPE submitted a [letter to Chairman Enzi and Ranking Member Casey](#) with recommendations based on the eight priorities. Today, Mimi Lufkin, CEO of NAPE had a call with staff of Senators Enzi, Casey, Alexander, and Murray to discuss the recommendations and answer any questions. This activity, along with [last week's House Education and the Workforce Committee's hearing](#), are all indicators that Perkins reauthorization is moving up on the priority list for both the House and the Senate. We are expecting a proposal to be put forward sometime in early 2016, so stay tuned while we keep you informed on the progress.

House Passes a Budget Deal That the Senate Can Move On

(Courtesy, in part, of Roll Call)

The [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015](#) is a responsible and positive step. It raises the debt ceiling, eliminates the majority of the harmful sequester cuts, avoids benefit cuts for recipients of Social Security Disability Insurance, and avoids a large premium jump for a sizable number of Medicare beneficiaries.

The new Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 would:

- Increase discretionary spending by \$80 billion over 2 years
- Divide relief equally between defense and nondefense

- Spread relief over 2 years (FY2016 and FY2017), providing \$50 billion in FY2016 and \$30 billion in FY2017 (\$25 billion in relief for non-defense discretionary in FY2016 and \$15 billion for NDD in FY2017)
- Provide additional \$32 billion in overseas contingency operations funding over 2 years for defense and nondefense security programs

Offsets include a 1-year extension of mandatory spending sequestration, selling oil reserve and airwaves spectrum, and some changes to entitlements to improve program integrity.

It extends the debt ceiling until March 5, 2017. In the Senate, Senators feel confident a 2-year budget deal that also lifts the debt limit before the November 3 deadline has the necessary support. Leaders are looking at 1 a.m. early Friday for a cloture vote, but the exact time is still up in the air as senators negotiate a final agreement.

Majority Whip John Cornyn, R-Texas, told reporters that he was confident the deal would get the 60 votes required to advance and that the expectation is a vote on final passage could come in the hours after the cloture vote Friday morning. The White House-backed bill easily passed the House Wednesday.

Senate Banking Chairman Richard C. Shelby, R-Ala., told reporters, “They’ll get a sizable amount, if not all of, the Democrats and some Republicans.” As for the substance of the deal, which raises domestic and defense spending caps, Shelby said it was a big win for President Barack Obama, adding, “It’s not anything I can support.” Earlier in the day, senators [announced a deal](#) on a crop insurance issue that threatened to drive away senators in heavy agriculture states.

Working Families Day of Action 2015 on Capitol Hill

U.S. House Democrats held a Working Families Day of Action to promote proposed policies important to working families to include: paid sick days, paid family leave, work schedule flexibility, access to affordable child care, and equal pay for equal work.

Deputy Secretary Chris Lu moderated a panel on working families hosted by Ranking Member Bobby Scott of the House Education and the Workforce Committee on October 27. Lu provided an overview of the Department of Labor’s efforts to expand opportunity for all and ensure that prosperity is broadly shared. The panel kicked off the Day of Action to support the Working Families Agenda—a set of policy proposals that would strengthen working families and enable them to succeed. The agenda includes policies that would boost wages, help workers better balance work and family, and level the playing field so that all workers have a fair shot.

Members of Congress are looking to secure more co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle for the proposed legislation and are advocating for a resolution in support of bringing the bills up for a vote.

Panelists:

- Liz Shuler, AFL-CIO

- Dorian T. Warren, Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute, MSNBC Contributor, Board Chair of the Center for Community Change, Host and Executive Producer of MSNBC's "Nerding Out"
- Fatima Goss Graves, NWLC

Nineteen Members of Congress participated in the session including the convening member: Ranking Member Bobby Scott, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, and Dr. Judy Chu, Chair of the Pacific Asian Caucus.

After the forum, a news conference was held with Members who organized the event to push a slate of 10 bills that they say will help working families and called on the presumed next Speaker of the House, Ways and Means Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), to make the legislation a priority. Members participating in the news conference included Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Ranking Member Bobby Scott, Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chair Congressman Keith Ellison, along with women leaders Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro, as well as representatives from the National Partnership for Women & Families, AFT, AFL-CIO, and SEIU.

Finally, Ranking Member Bobby Scott and committee members released Stronger Together: How Unions Help Strengthen Families and the Nation ([Executive Summary](#), [Full Report](#)).

Third “Make It in America: What’s Next?” Member’s Day Hearing

House Democratic Whip Steny H. Hoyer (MD) held the third in a series of “Make It In America: What’s Next” hearings to explore how the economy has, and hasn’t, changed since the Make It In America plan was launched in 2010, and what families and businesses need in 2015 to Make It In America. Click [here](#) to learn more about the previous hearings.



CNA Holds a CTE Equation Senate Briefing with Brenda Dann Messier

Education researchers and practitioners presented data from two new reports by CNA Education that map CTE Career Clusters to high-growth/high-wage jobs, and the importance of education and private industry stakeholders working together to use labor market data to help inform student preparation.



CNA panelists Christina Mokher, Juliana Pearson, and Brenda Dann Messier in the Russell Senate Office Building

Administration

White House Announces ASU to Lead National STEM Collaborative

The White House has announced that Arizona State University will lead the National STEM Collaborative, a consortium of [19 institutions of higher education and nonprofit partners](#) committed to supporting minority girls and women in STEM fields.

National Apprenticeship Week Is This Week!

During the week of November 2, the U.S. Department of Labor and apprenticeship leaders nationwide will celebrate the first annual National Apprenticeship Week (NAW). NAW is an opportunity for the national apprenticeship community to share its pride in using the registered apprenticeship model to train U.S. workers.

National Apprenticeship Week is your chance to raise awareness, promote the value of apprenticeship, and celebrate the innovative and effective strategies being used around the country to train workers in all industries. The week also serves as an opportunity for those in business, industry, and education, as well as career seekers, community-based organizations, students, and workers to learn about the advantages of apprenticeship.

To learn more, including finding an event near you and becoming involved digitally, visit the [Department of Labor website](#).