



TO: National Career Development Association- Government Relations Committee
FROM: Advocacy Associates, LLC
DATE: August 7, 2012
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

On the Hill

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

On July 31, 2012, House and Senate leaders reached a deal to keep the government funded for another six months, essentially punting the issue until March of next year. Specific details of the bill are being drafted with the target passage date to be in September. The extension will keep the government funded at the same levels set under the 2011 Budget Control Act.

More importantly, the funding extension DOES NOT deal with two major issues: sequestration cuts (the automatic funding cuts from the Budget Control Act that were to be enacted if the Super Committee failed) that take effect in January 2013 or the expiration/renewal of Bush-era tax cuts. We will be following the funding debate closely through the beginning of next year.

Sequestration

Required under the 2011 Budget Act, the automatic and across the board funding cuts from Federal agencies will be a major issue after the August recess. Congressional members, coalitions, organizations, and associations continue to demand that the White House release a detailed assessment of how funding cuts will be enacted. There have been strong efforts by members in the House to stop sequestration cuts from defense and national security agencies. If these members are successful, the result will be more cuts from nondefense discretionary spending (NDD) including Department of Labor and Department of Education.

Updates on Legislation

Please refer to the legislative matrix that lists legislation that is of interest to NCDA.

Updates on Hearings

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Committee on Armed Services Held a Joint Hearing on "Returning from the Battlefield: DoD and VA Collaboration to Assist Service Members Returning to Civilian Life."

On July 25, 2012, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the House Armed Services Committee held a joint hearing on the collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Veterans Affairs Department to assist service members returning to civilian life. Panelists were:

- The Honorable [Leon E. Panetta](#), Secretary of Defense
- The Honorable [Eric K. Shinseki](#), Secretary of Veterans' Affairs

In the opening statements, the Chairmen and Ranking Members wished to increase cross departmental cooperation to address veterans' issues and eliminate duplication. The Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon (R-CA) was very interested in the purpose and current use of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). Veterans Affairs Committee Ranking Member Bob Filner (D-CA) described the current TAP program as boring and "a waste of everyone's time." He suggests that a long term de-boot camp is better for Veterans to reintegrate into civilian life.

The hearing covered a range of issues facing veterans from PTSD treatment, homelessness, and employment opportunities for returning veterans. During the hearing, the White House [announced changes](#) to TAP such as requiring 5 mandatory days of employment training with an optional 2 day entrepreneurial training program on and small business training. Secretary Panetta said that individual counselors *will play a crucial role* for veterans during TAP in the future. Advocacy Associates recommends that NCDA meet with staffers of the House and Senate Veterans Affairs committees to discuss career counselors' role in transition programs.

Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Service Hearing on The Impact of Sequestration on Education.

On July 25, 2012, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services held a hearing on "The Impact of Sequestration on Education." Panelists were:

Panel 1

- The Honorable [Arnie Duncan](#), Secretary of Education

Panel 2

- [Billy Walker](#) Ed.D, Superintendent, Randolph Field Independent School District
- [June Atkinson](#), State Superintendent of Public Instruction, North Carolina
- [Neal McCluskey](#), Associate Director, Center for Educational Freedom, Cato Institute
- [Tammy L. Mann](#) Ph.D., President and CEO, The Campaign Center

In his opening statement, subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) introduced a [report](#) that details the sequestration cuts to NDD spending. He also cites another report from the aerospace industry that NDD cuts will do more harm to the nation's GDP than defense cuts. Ranking member Richard Shelby (R-AL) disputed the report because the Obama administration has not reported how cuts would be enacted.

The majority of the hearing was spent on the testimony and questioning of Education Secretary Arnie Duncan. He confirmed that if sequestration were to occur, education programs would suffer a funding cut of 7.8% regardless of effectiveness or oversight. In addition, if sequestration cuts to defense are avoided, funding cuts to education programs will increase to 17.8% across the board. The second panel, with the exception of Mr. McCluskey, voiced strong opposition to sequestration cuts to education as detrimental to an already underfunded department.

Off the Hill

Deputy Secretary Oates Follow-Up Items

Pat Schwallie-Giddis and Robin Cleveland met with Assistant Secretary Oates and her staff on May 15th. Follow up items include:

1. A conference call between Jane Oates and NCDA members describing ETA goals and projects.
2. Challenging NCDA members to volunteer in Career One Stop Centers.
3. Coordinate rollout of ETA career planning tool for high school students in areas of dense NCDA membership.

***No updates on these items

District Meeting with Rep. Hinojosa (D-TX)

Advocacy Associates has contacted district staff and submitted an official meeting request letter.

***Update

Advocacy Associates has secured a tentative meeting in the Edinburg office on August 23, 2012 at 10 am. NCDA needs to provide a list of constituents who will be in attendance.

The Transition Assistance Program Employment Workshops (TAP)

Veterans' unemployment has been getting news coverage as of late. For example [this video](#) was cited in a news article and a [National Journal article](#) on veteran's unemployment came out recently.

The TAP program is part of a larger initiative within the Department of Labor known as Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS). Rather than trying to become more involved in TAP, Advocacy Associates recommends that NCDA meet with VETS staff in order to discuss which programs, TAP or otherwise, career counselors are needed the most.

*** Update

Advocacy Associates recommends that NCDA representatives meet with Deputy Assistant Secretary [John Moran](#). The meeting would be a first step to build a relationship with VETS similar to the meeting NCDA had with Deputy Secretary Oates from ETA. Now is a great time in light of recent changes to the Transition Assistance Program.

Hill Staffers Briefing

Advocacy Associates had a conference call with Scott Barstow from ACA regarding the Hill staffers briefing. Advocacy Associates will be checking in with House Ethics on the best way to structure a career counseling event on the Hill. Advocacy Associates will also check on coordinating with the House Employment office as they likely have career counseling service and may be willing to engage in a joint venture. Following are the two most likely options:

1. If House Ethics indicates that brief individual consultations with career counselors would be acceptable, Advocacy Associates proposes doing a "career counseling afternoon on the Hill," with a few career counselors available for brief (15 minute or so) discussions with staff per appointment. The event would occur at central location where staff could go (as opposed to schlepping around the hill).
2. If House Ethics indicates this would be a "gift," Advocacy Associates suggests a briefing on NCDA priorities as they relate to the end of the 112th Congress, particularly focused on any employment issues.

***No Updates

ACA Joint Letter & Institute

***Update

During the ACA leadership institute, NCDA members Matt Morscheck and Julia Porter met with committee staff from the House Education and Workforce Committee and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) to talk about career developers' legislative priorities. Their leave behind is attached. Matt and Julia reported that they had good meetings and they collected great intelligence on future legislation.

ACA may be interested developing a letter in collaboration with NCDA and ARCO on mental health rehabilitation counseling.

Customized NCDA Government Relations Website

Advocacy Associates has created a customized NCDA government relations website for the NCDA board. Tom will circulate login and password for the website which can be accessed here: <http://advocacyassociates.com/NCDA/>

Coalition Building Targets

Career and Technical Education Caucus-

Advocacy Associates has analyzed the members of the Career and Technical Education Caucus and suggest the following members for outreach and relationship building.

1. Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA05) - His district is located in northwestern/central Pennsylvania and includes Sigel, Penfield, and Williamsport. His is a co-chair of the

CTE Caucus. He is a member of the Education and Workforce committee and serves on the subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training. He assumed office in 2009.

2. Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI02) - His district is located in southern and western Rhode Island and includes Cranston, Warwick Westerly, and Providence. He is the other co-chair of the CTE caucus. He is a member of the Armed Services committee and the Intelligence committee. He assumed office in 2001.
3. Rep. Steve LaTourette (R-OH14) - His district is located in the northeast corner of Ohio and includes Ashtabula, East Lake, and Willoughby. He is a member of the Appropriations committee. He assumed office in 1995.
4. Rep. David Loebsack (D-IA02) – His district is located in southeastern Iowa including Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Ottumwa. He is a member of the Education and Workforce committee and serves on the subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training. He assumed office in 2007.
5. Rep. Steve Southerland (R-FL02)- His district encompasses the eastern Florida panhandle and includes Panama city and Tallahassee. He is a member of the several committees including Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Infrastructure. He assumed office in 2011. He is not in the CTE caucus, but he is President Deb Osborn’s Representative.
6. Rep. Mark Critz (D-PA12) – His district stretches from Johnstown to suburbs of Pittsburgh. He is a member of the Committee on Small Business, and he serves on the subcommittee on Contracting and Workforce. He assumed office in 2010.
7. Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO04)- His district is located in eastern Colorado and includes Fort Collins, Loveland, and Greeley. He is a member of the Energy and commerce committee. He assumed office in 2011. He is not in the CTE Caucus, but he is President Elect Rich Feller’s representative.
8. Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ12) - His district includes North and East Brunswick and Princeton University area. He is a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce Committee and serves on the subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education. He assumed office 1999.

Depending on what legislation Congress takes up after the August recess, Advocacy Associates suggests that we begin to reach out to these offices with a letter initially and meetings later.

***No updates

Education and Workforce Roundtable

As we identify more groups to partner with, it will be beneficial to organize a roundtable meeting with one or two representatives from various groups in order to create a consensus on priorities. NCDA taking the reins to coordinate a meeting will establish the organization as a more serious player in education and workforce issues.

***No updates