

NREAC Call: 5/13/2015

Attendees:

Scott Turney, Jerry Cochran, Jules Waber, Jimmy Cunningham, John Hill, Phil Gerik, Jon Habben, Don Rodgers, Fred Nolen, Chuck, Allison Nys

Jerry heard that Senator Blunt trying to get rid of regional education labs – will keep track of that

Congressional Update:

Privacy: Sen Markey introduced the same legislation he moved last Congress, and it gives us pause (it is not necessarily school friendly). We are drafting comments to the House FERPA draft (that is not public information) in the hopes of improving on the Kline/Scott draft legislation. FERPA is legislation that deals with all aspects of student data. The Polis/Messer bill we signed on to earlier this year is more specific, focusing on collection, use and storage of student data related to internet/app-based services and supports.

ESEA: Still no date for action on the House bill or Senate bill. We are told June; I'd be comfy with taking the Senate word. The house is still the House. I have asked the House committee staff for the list of Representatives who have yet to commit to eh bill and we will be crossing those against the supporters from last Cong and asking those who have flipped 'Why?' We will share that with you all.

There is the potential, however small, for the following scenario: They let HR5 fall apart and the House moves with the Senate bill. This would be a very politically dynamic move and would require extreme discipline and leadership on both sides of the aisle on the House. The upside of this approach is that it makes the subsequent conferencing of the bill much smoother.

Budget/Appropriations: The House and Senate adopted their budget resolution. While non-binding, it does set the tone for the appropriations work, where specific amounts are allocated to individual agencies and related programs. Overall, the House and Senate budget caps are unacceptably low and we are opposed. The details in the House budget impact higher education. While light on specifics of K12 funding, the reality is that the overall funding levels are so low it is impossible to anticipate anything other than net cuts in education.

Nutrition: Two items of note re: legislation:

- S. 1146, *the Healthy School Meals Flexibility Act*, which was introduced last week by Senators John Hoeven (R-ND) and Angus King (I-ME). Representative Kristi Noem (R-SD) introduced similar legislation that NSBA is supporting in the House -- H.R. 1504, *the Reducing Federal Mandates on School Lunches Act*. The legislation offers school districts relief in meeting some of the most onerous requirements of the existing law -- specifically the whole grain products and lower sodium content requirements -- while ensuring that students receive healthy, nutritious school meals.

Vouchers: Tomorrow, the House Oversight Committee is holding a field hearing on the DC voucher program. NREAC signed a letter opposing the program, and we are working through the public education coalition to continue to put pressure on voucher programs/supporters.

Public School Caucus: Paper work has been filed in the house to create the Public Education Caucus. Stay tuned for information re: how your Representative can join.

AASA Advocacy Conference this summer: We are joining forces with the school business officials (ASBO), and would love to see you in DC! <http://aasa.org/legconf.aspx>