

The **Government Relations Committee** was held via conference call on March 14, 2017 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST& PDT.

ATTENDING

Committee Members

B.J. Granbery, Co-chair (MT); Gaye Leia King (BIE); Geri McMahon (IA); Bernell Cook (LA); Pat Kaizer (MO); Jeremy Marks (OH); Rebecca Donaldson (UT); Paula Moore (WA); Gayle Pauley (WA); Jonas Zuckerman (WI)

Association Management

Bob Harmon – CEO

Marcus Cheeks – Deputy COO

Jeri Erickson – Member Services Director

Julia Martin – Brustein & Manasevit

Meeting Agenda:

1. Review [2014 Guiding Principles](#) (Bob Harmon, CEO)

The Guiding Principles were last updated May 2014 and are used to develop messaging, compose letters, and develop or sign-on to position papers, as appropriate. Committee members were asked to review the Guiding Principles and send any changes to Bob for incorporating into the updated version. The revised draft will be shared in advance of the April 11 committee meeting.

2. National Indian Education Association (NIEA) (Bob Harmon, CEO)

Bob received an email from NIEA in December asking what position the Association is taking on appropriations. NIEA wants to partner with the Association on signing on to any future letters regarding funding issues.

3. Committee for Education Funding (CEF) Membership

The Association's membership with CEF has been renewed with the annual dues of \$1,000. CEF is focused around increasing federal funding for education. Julia Martin serves as the Association representative and connects regularly with updates.

4. Government Relations Report (Julia Martin, Brustein & Manasevit)

- I. Congressional updates
 - a. Work on nominations continues
 - i. Still awaiting hearings on Labor nominee (Acosta)
 1. Now scheduled for late March
 2. Likely to move through easily
 - ii. No news on Agriculture nominee (Perdue)
 1. Also likely to move through easily (endorsed by Democrats including Vilsack)
 - b. Action on Regulations
 - i. CRA resolutions repealing ESSA accountability regulations, HEA Teacher preparation regulations passed House and Senate
 1. White House says that President will sign
 2. Nullify regulations and prohibit agency from ever issuing "substantially similar" regulations on the same legislative text
 - c. Appropriations
 - i. FY 2017 (Current fiscal year)
 1. Still running on CR through April 28th
 2. Takes a backseat as discussion on FY 2018 ramps up in administration, Congress
 - ii. FY 2018

1. President's budget proposal expected out week of 3/13
2. Balancing a number of main priorities:
 1. Keeping entitlement spending (Social Security, Medicare)
 2. Boosting defense spending
 3. Goals regarding tax reform, health care may be a factor
- d. Other policy legislation still unlikely for now, including
 - i. Perkins
 - ii. HEA
 - iii. Child Nutrition
- e. Bills of note
 - i. H.R. 610 (Rep. Steve King, R-IA)
 1. Would eliminate ESEA, child nutrition standards
 2. Turns money into a block grant for public schools, private schools, or home-schooling
 3. Light on substance – likely intended to be a message bill
 4. Not being taken seriously by relevant education committees
 5. House and Senate have no appetite to revisit ESSA as implementation is just getting off the ground
 - ii. H.R. 899 (Rep. Thomas Massie, R-KY)
 1. Would eliminate the Department of Education on December 31st, 2018
 2. No further details about transitioning out, what would happen to funding, no termination of grants (and therefore no accountability?)
 3. Pure message bill
 4. No chance of passage
 - iii. Voucher proposal
 1. Newest idea is that this will be a tax credit totaling up to \$20 billion
 2. Could either be:
 1. Individual tax deduction for parents who send children to private schools, OR
 2. Business tax credit/deduction for businesses who donate/send tax dollars to voucher fund (the Florida model)
 3. Would require action from Congress
 4. Would also require (at least in theory) budgetary offsets.

II. Administration Updates

- i. Budget coming out week of 3/13 will likely provide much more clarity
 1. Expect non-defense discretionary programs like ESEA, IDEA to see across-the board cuts of up to 10%
 2. Likely to combine across-the-board cuts with individual targeted reductions (e.g. to higher education programs, which tend to be higher-dollar).
 1. Rumors of larger cuts to Title II, 21st Century program
 3. Potential for significant staff reductions across government (including ED)
- ii. New ESSA State plan template issued 3/13
 1. Replaces Obama-era template
 1. State can either use this template or create own (with CCSSO) and crosswalk
 1. Can also submit individual program applications
 2. "If a state submits a consolidated State plan per the revised template, the overall application they submit should be far shorter"
 2. Focuses solely on statutory requirements
 1. Reduces requirements re: reporting on teacher equity in State plan (but requirement to evaluate remain)
 3. ED says it worked with stakeholders, still focused on civil rights
 4. Will also release peer-review guidance, webinars.



National Title I Association

a National Association of State Title I Directors

5. Funding based on ASSURANCES, not application:
 1. "An SEA's receipt of FY 2017 funds is not contingent upon the Department's approval of its consolidated or individual State plans."
6. For April deadline, application merely has to go to governor by that date and may be submitted to ED as late as May 3rd.

III. Questions?

5. Other

John Monsif, VP of Government Relations for First Focus Campaign for Children, sent an email explaining that they are working on a potential social media campaign to address how the \$12 billion estimate to build a border wall could be better spent on critical children's programs. John asked if the Association would consider providing information for the campaign by calculating how Title I could use an additional \$12 billion. Based on discussion, a draft response was crafted: While additional dollars would always be welcome in Title I, there is not a lot of interest in taking the time to generate the meaningful use and describing the impact of an increased allocation when it is so clearly unlikely.

Notes from the January 10, 2017 meeting are [available here](#).

Next meeting is scheduled for **April 11, 2017 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.**