



# National Title I Association

a National Association of State Title I Directors

The **Government Relations Committee** met via conference call on June 13, 2017 at 1:00PM EDT, 12:00PM CDT, 11:00AM MDT, 10:00AM MST & PDT.

## **ATTENDING**

### **Committee Members**

Margo DeLaune (BIE); B.J. Granbery, (MT); Giana Hutton (DC); Pat Kaizer (MO); Jeremy Marks (OH); Gayle Pauley (WA); Lynn Sodat (VA); Roy Stehle, Co-chair (SC); Jocelyn Strand (MO)

### **Association Management**

Bob Harmon – CEO

Jeri Erickson – Member Services Director

Julia Martin – Brustein & Manasevit

## **Meeting Agenda:**

### **1. [Association Letter to Congress](#)**

- Julia Martin and Bob Harmon drafted the letter. State testimonials were requested and Washington, Idaho and Utah were thanked for sending in their testimonials.
- The letter will be on the agenda for final review and approval of the Board at the June 20 Board meeting.
- One small typo was pointed out and will be corrected on the final version.
- Once approved, the letter will be sent via email to relevant congressional staff to disseminate.
- The consensus of the committee is that the letter is well done, comprehensive, and to-the-point.

### **2. OSS Request for Information on Regulations, [Patrick Rooney's email to the Association](#)**

- Patrick Rooney, Deputy Director OSS, sent an email requesting feedback from the Association (as a group) regarding which regulations are considered unnecessary, in need of revision, or necessary and should be kept in place. The due date for our response to him is June 30, 2017.
- Committee members will review regulations and send comments to Bob Harmon, copying the entire committee, by Thursday, 6/15. Bob will compile the list to be sent to Patrick.

### **3. Government Relations Update (Julia Martin, Brustein & Manasevit)**

- I. Congressional updates
  - a. Appropriations
    - i. FY 2018 President's budget proposal
      1. More detail on "skinny" budget
        1. Otherwise more or less tracks with it
      2. De-fund: Title II, Title IV
      3. Reduce funding for Perkins by 15%
      4. Close to level-funding Title I
      5. Confusion about funding for IDEA
      6. School choice proposals
        1. Boost in funding for charter school grants

- 2. Boost in funding for EIR -- \$250 million for private school vouchers and studies
    - 3. \$1 billion for Title I portability
    - 4. Do protections follow students using vouchers? DeVos testimony
      - 1. IDEA due process/others
      - 2. LGBT students
  - ii. New “lunch shaming” bill
    - 1. Prevents students from being singled out, having meals taken away
    - 2. Still some concerns from advocates
  - b. Other Priorities:
    - i. Health care bill: this time, “secret” negotiations in the Senate!
    - ii. Comey hearing and follow-up
- II. Administration Updates
  - a. Staff turnover!
    - i. Head of federal student aid quits
      - 1. Issues including lack of confidence in administration, scapegoating, possible mismanagement of programs?
    - ii. Sen. Alexander staffer Peter Oppenheim to ED Congressional affairs
    - iii. Steven Menashi to General Counsel (replacing Phil Rosenfelt as Acting)
  - b. [ESSA FAQs](#)
    - i. Tries to assuage fears over responses to States
    - ii. Reasoning for short turnaround, judgment calls on State goals
  - c. New OCR documents
    - i. Internal memo on giving [discretion to regional directors](#)
      - 1. Don’t have to “phone home” on certain issues
      - 2. No automatic review for system issues unless they are raised in basic allegations
    - ii. [Internal memo on transgender students](#)
      - 1. Follow what courts have said on Title IX
      - 2. Focus on bullying and active discrimination/failure to address issues rather than policies alone
- III. Court cases
  - a. 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit transgender case
    - i. Court sides with Wisconsin student who wanted to be accommodated
    - ii. Decision based on Title IX
    - iii. Adds to precedent for movement to Supreme Court sometime next year or later!
- 4. Other
  - VT shared a letter to Congress regarding concerns with the President’s proposed K-12 education appropriations priorities for the fiscal year 2018 appropriations cycle.
  - An invite will be extended to Peter Zamora of CCSSO to attend the in person July 20 committee meeting in Washington, DC.

Notes from the May 9, 2017 meeting are [available here](#).

**Next meeting is in-person during the Summer Meeting in Washington, DC. Committee dinner meetings are scheduled for July 20 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm EDT.**