

Federal Education Policy Update

Noelle Ellerson Ng

AESA Legislative Conference

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2017 Monthly Advocacy Challenge

- Can you commit to 5 minutes a week?
- YOU know your story. A little lobbying secret: Everything you need to know to lobby, you learned in kindergarten: CUT & PASTE
- Identify one theme/topic per month, and share the same information with your full delegation
- As you do more direct advocacy, rely on your membership benefits of belonging to both your state association and AESA
 - Topic summaries, one pagers, talking points, contact information

A Busy Fall!

- Fiscal year starts October 1
- To Do:
 - FY18 appropriations
 - Emergency Funding
 - Debt Ceiling
 - Raising Funding Caps
 - Secure Rural Schools
 - Defense Reauthorization
 - Affordable Care Act/Children's Health Insurance Program
 - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Health Policy

- Affordable Care Act (Medicaid)
 - Reconciliation instructions expire 9/30
 - Two major pushes failed this summer
 - Graham/Cassidy push, FAIL
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
 - AASA supports straight 5 year funding extension
 - More than half of the nearly 9 million children served by CHIP are eligible to receive services in school through their state Medicaid programs.
 - 15 states exclusively use CHIP funds to extend their Medicaid programs, meaning all children who qualify for CHIP receive identical services and benefits as their traditional Medicaid-counterparts.
 - W/out CHIP extension, districts will lose funding for the critical health services these children receive

Tax Policy

- Tax Reform
 - State and Local Tax Deduction (SALT-D)
 - Vital deduction supports middle class homeowners and public services that benefit all citizens such as K-12 schools, law enforcement and public safety, transportation and infrastructure
 - Staple of federal tax code for 100+ years
 - 43 m+ tax payers claim SALT-D (most popular deduction)
 - Taxpayers in all 50 states – in both Democratic and Republican congressional districts – claim SALT.
 - AESA supports continuation of SALT-D
 - Tax Credits (see next slides)

Types of Vouchers



Traditional Vouchers

- All Students
- Targeted
 - Military
 - Disabilities
 - Poverty
 - Poor Performing Schools
- Foster Child



Backdoor Vouchers

- Tuition Tax Credits
- Education Savings Accounts



Portability

- A Step Towards Vouchers
- Title I funds “follow the student”

How to make good on school choice promises this Congress?

Tuition Tax Credits

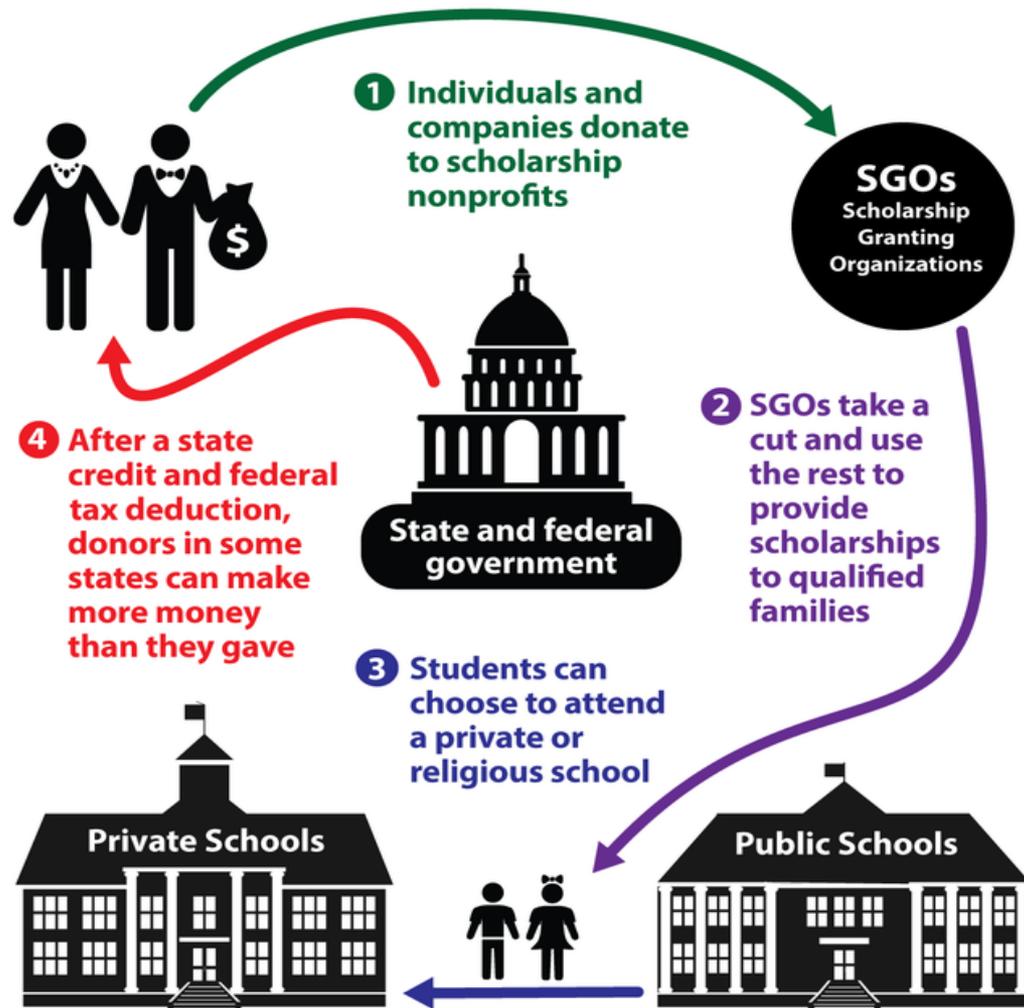
- What is a tuition tax credit?
 - Allows taxes owed to a state by individuals or corporations to be redirected into charitable donations to voucher nonprofits that then bundle the donations and distribute tuition checks to families to use to attend private schools
- Is it a voucher? You better believe it is.
 - Provides opportunity for students to leave public schools for private schools and allows wealthy taxpayers and corporations to pay less than their share of taxes, which also support public schools.
 - Limited accountability for private schools and lots of money from taxpayers looking for a tax break.

What's the plan?

- Put a tuition tax credit into tax reform package
 - Like healthcare proposal, would only need 50 votes in the Senate – no Dems needed
- Two options: 1) just give federal tax credit to states with state tax credit program, which will lead to explosive growth of program. 2) Create new federal tax credit for any company and taxpayer in any state (a harder lift for small-government Republicans, but a much more impactful school choice program).

There's already a school voucher tax shelter in 10 states.

Let's close it, not expand it.



Ask Your Member of Congress to Support the *Protecting Taxpayer Dollars from Private School Tax Shelters Act* by Terri Sewell (D-AL) to close this loophole

Perkins CTE

- 114th Congress
 - House passed bipartisan legislation in July 405-5 to reauthorize Perkins, Senate didn't take action
- 115th Congress
 - Earlier this summer, the House passed a very similar bill
 - There is much to like in the bill
 - Addresses the onerous administrative requirements for Perkins funding
 - Addresses paperwork burden by allowing districts to fill out a simple, easy-to-complete local application
 - Streamlines the accountability system and aligns performance measures with those set by each state under ESSA

School Nutrition

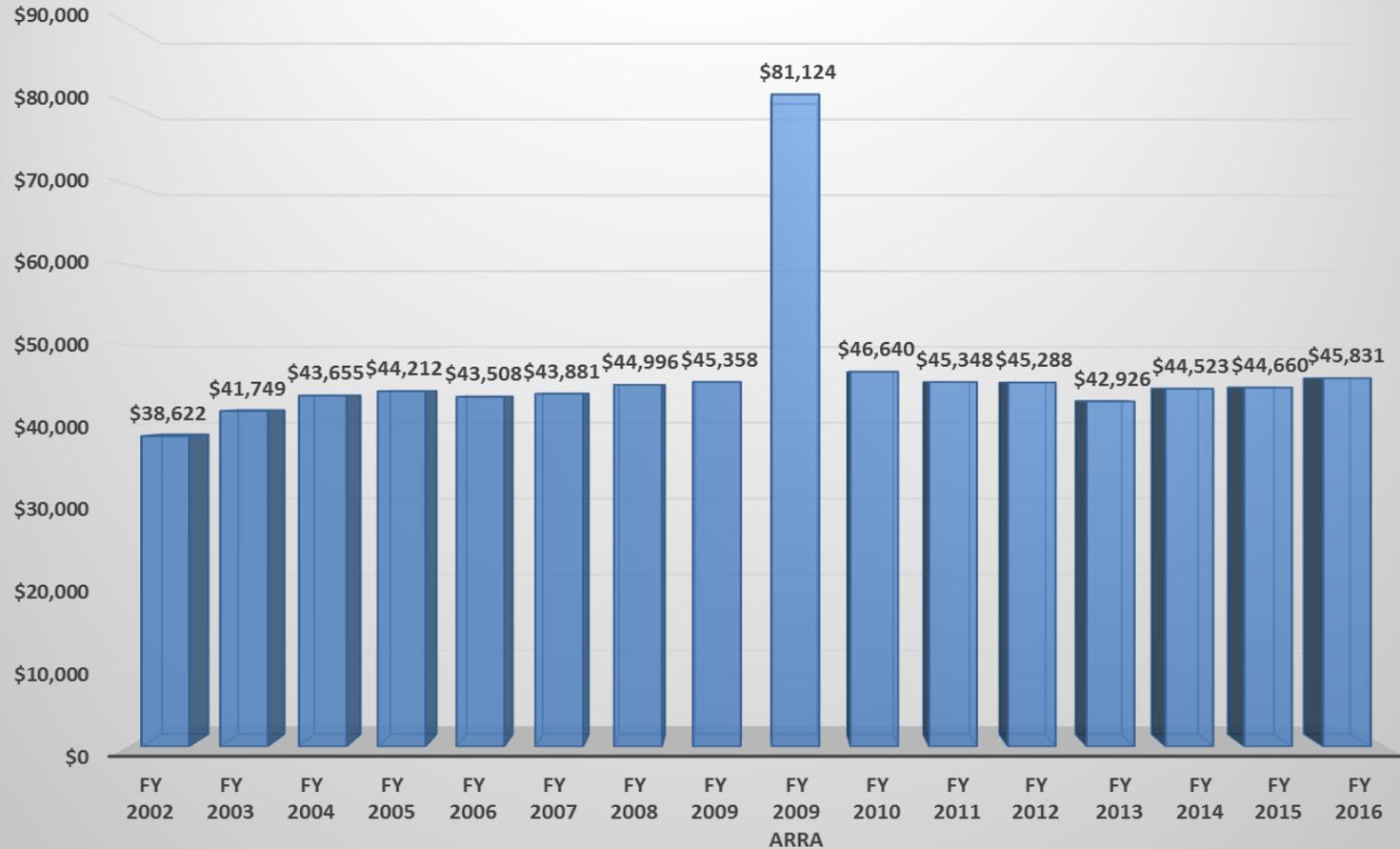
- 114th Congress
 - House and Senate introduced bills last year, did not make it out of Committee
- 115th Congress
 - Attention in the Senate to be on the Farm Bill instead this year
- USDA Proclamation
 - Secretary Purdue signed proclamation ordering flexibilities
 - Essentially status quo
 - Holding sodium limits at Target I
 - Allows for waiver of whole grain requirement to 50%
 - Allows 1% flavored milk to be served

Rural Education

- Duncan vs DeVos: Any different for rural?
- Rural programs to follow:
 - REAP
 - Secure Rural Schools/Forest Counties
 - Impact Aid
- Reliance on funding and disproportionate sensitivity to changes in federal funding, whether cuts, shifts away from formulaic allocation, and privatization agenda
- E-Rate and access to affordable broadband matters, particularly in rural areas. Make sure your delegation knows what E-rate is and what it means in your district.
- Infrastructure
 - Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2017
 - Get the Lead Out of Schools

FUNDING

Total ED Discretionary Funding Excluding Pell
in millions



FY17 Funding Package

- \$68.2 b for USED at base level, but when we account or \$1.3 b rescission to Pell, the level is \$66.9(\$1.1 below FY16)
- ESSA
 - Title I increased by \$550 m (\$450m from SIG), still short at LEA level
 - Title II cut by \$294m (13%) to \$2.1 billion
 - Title IV funded at \$400 m (revert to competitive?)
- IDEA receives \$90 m increase (still at just 16% of federal share)
- Impact Aid up \$23m to \$1.3b
- 21st Century up \$25 m
- Charter Schools up \$9m
- Head Start up \$85 m
- Includes reauth of DC voucher program

FY18 Budget Proposal

- FY18 Priority: Very real deep cuts.
 - Parity between defense/non-defense discretionary
- \$54b increase for defense discretionary; paid for with \$54 b cut to NDD
- \$9 b (13%) cut to USED
- \$1.4 b increase for school choice/privatization
 - \$1b for Title I portability; \$250 m for vouchers; \$168 m for charters
- Cuts IDEA and Title I local allocations, as well as Carl D Perkins (Career/Tech)
- Eliminates Title IIA, Title IV and 21st Century Community Learning grants
- Eliminate 20 other categorical grants

FY18 Appropriations

- President proposal is bad, House proposal is less bad, Senate proposal is least bad
- Less bad \neq GOOD
- Current status:
 - CR through Dec 8
 - Overlapping politics of caps and debt ceiling
 - Must reconcile different starting numbers
 - Reality of potential mini-sequester b/c FY18 cap is below FY17 levels (relevant in CR scenario)

AESA Legislative Agenda

- ESSA
- School Nutrition
- Perkins Career/Tech
- IDEA
- Rural Education (REAP, Forest Counties, Impact Aid)
- School Vouchers
- E-Rate/Lifeline/EBS
- Student Data & Privacy
- Charters
- Higher Education Act
- Early Education
- Affordable Care Act
- Regulations: DoL and EPA
- Immigration / DACA
- More?

Get Involved, Stay Engaged

- Policy Blog The Leading Edge
- AESA Advocacy on Twitter (@AESAnetwork)
- Weekly & Monthly Updates
- Websites & Newsletters
 - EdWeek
 - [Politics K12](#)
 - [Morning Education](#) (Politico)
 - [Real Clear Education](#)
 - [Cabinet Report](#)

AESA Advocacy Team

Noelle Ellerson Ng
nellerson@aasa.org
@Noellerson

Sasha Pudelski
spudelski@aasa.org
@Spudelski

Leslie Finnan
lfinnan@aasa.org
@LeslieFinnan

Questions?