

# March 2017 Federal Update

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**Questions will be taken at the end of the presentation.**

# What's on the To - Do List & the Calendar

# What is on the Congressional To – Do List

- Fiscal Year 2017 appropriations (*Continuing Resolution deadline of April 28*)
- Confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Nominee
- Repeal and Replace of the Affordable Care Act
- Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Resolution (*to include path forward on tax reform & infrastructure funding*)
- Nominations to be confirmed for 450+ positions in the federal government
- Debt Ceiling (*July 28 deadline*)
- Continued Russia investigations
- Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations (*September 30 deadline*)

**AND MORE**

# The Calendar

## Congressional Recesses Through September 2017

**NOTE:** dates include weekends

Senate and House Recesses don't align perfectly;  
House takes a few more days here & there

- April 8-23
- May 27-June 4
- July 1-9
- July 29-September 4
- September 15-24 (House); September 21-24 (Senate)

# The Budget and Appropriations Process

# **“Standard” Budget Process**

*We have some non-standard items in motion right now*

## **President’s Budget Request to the Congress**

*This kicks off the budget & appropriations process*

*First Monday in February*

## **Congressional Budget Resolution**

*Sets the topline budget number and the numbers for each of the 12 appropriations bills*

*April 15*

## **Congressional Appropriations Process**

*Each of the 12 subcommittees move their bills to the full committee and then to the Floor for consideration*

*September 30 (Fiscal Year is Oct 1- Sept 30)*



# Deviations from the “Standard Process”

- Currently operating under a “Continuing Resolution” where Congress continues to fund at relatively the same levels, taking into account legal budget caps and includes anomalies based on new laws and/or expirations. We are almost 6 months in to the 2017 Fiscal Year.
- President’s Budget Request was late and a blueprint rather than full request (multiple volumes). This is normal for a new administration.
- Congress was permitted to finish the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) Budget Resolution 9 months late.

# FY17 Appropriations Update

A Continuing Resolution (CR) for FY17 was passed through April 28, 2017.

Republicans in the House and Senate would like to produce an omnibus bill for the remaining appropriations bills.

- 11 of the 12 bills remain
- omnibus is the remaining bills merged into 1 bill

**BUT**

We could see one or 2 remaining bills CR'd and others moved as one (called a CRomnibus).

**OR**

We could see a **government shutdown.**

# Fiscal Year 18 (FY18)

# President's Blueprint to Make American Great Again: The President's Priorities Revealed

First step in the FY18 budget & appropriations process

It is a REQUEST of Congress.

Congress can do with this request as it wishes.

Ignore

Do some, not all

Fully implement (never happens!)

# POTUS Budget Request

Education: 13.5% Cut

## **Requested cuts specifically mentioned**

- Teacher Quality Partnership program (one of 20 programs cut, but not all are listed)
- Title II - A of the Every Student Succeeds Act
- 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program

## **Reductions specifically mentioned:**

- Work-study programs
- TRIO
- GEAR-UP
- Pell surplus

# POTUS Budget Request, continued

## Challenges:

Exceeds the legal budget caps on defense spending – needs Congress to change the law.

Requests changes in the budget caps for FY17 – again, needs Congress to change the law (budget deal, specifically).

Attacks favorite programs of Members of Congress.

Only [discretionary spending](#), nothing mentioned on the mandatory side – so only addressing about 30% of the federal budget (based on 2016 numbers).

# Next Steps in the Process

The appropriations and budget committees will hold hearings with the Secretaries or Administrators to clarify & defend the President's budget request.

Budget Resolution will be drafted and hopefully passed by House and Senate to give top-line number and top line numbers for each of the 12 appropriations bills.

Appropriations committee moves through its process (subcommittee markup, full committee markup, Floor consideration) to meet September 30, 2017 deadline.

# Conversation With Appropriations Staff : Fiscal Year 2018

*“FY18 is going to be bad. It’s going to hurt. If you want to save a program you need letters and lots of support. Get Members [of Congress] letting us know that they support saving a program.”*

Using your constituent voice to engage your members of Congress will educate them (and their staff) on the importance of education funding overall, and for critical programs that support your work of training profession-ready educators for our nation’s classrooms.

To help you be at the table, rather than on the menu, please consult [AACTE’s Advocacy Center](#), where you’ll find downloadable guides, links to key policy contacts and information, and the link to sign up for the AACTE Action Alerts.



# Why Participate in the Action Alerts?

Constituent communications are logged and Members of Congress are required to answer.

The more communication on an issue causes the issue to be flagged by staff, alerting those up the ranks in the office.

Members of Congress act and take positions based on communication from constituents.

Staff have to research the issue to respond to constituents or prep the boss.

The Action Alerts will be used to engage the Congress on issues important to educator preparation – not just the teacher prep regs! It's one way to make your voice heard, and an excellent start to advocacy & engagement.

# Why Engage and Advocate?

## From Members of Congress:

“If it is not important enough for constituents to communicate to me about it, it’s not important enough for me to take action on it.”

*OR*

“We’re happy to help as it’s important to the programs in my state. I’m hearing about this.”

## From Congressional Staff:

“Thanks for flagging this for me. We also heard from constituents. As you know, the Senator voted in support of the CRA.”

*OR*

“Thanks for updating me & for the resources. We’ve still not heard from constituents that this is a problem for them. Given other priorities, we will hold on action for now. ”

# Congressional Review Act: Teacher Preparation Program Regulations

# CRA and the Teacher Prep Regulations: The U.S. House of Representatives

Representative Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, introduced House Joint Resolution 58 to rescind the teacher prep regs on February 1, 2017.

This resolution passed the House on February 7, 2017 with a vote of [240-181](#) (Roll Call Vote 85). Five Democrats voted in support.

You can read the Floor debates in the [Congressional Record](#) (links to congress.gov)

# CRA and the Teacher Prep Regulations: The U.S. Senate

Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE) introduced Senate Joint Resolution 26 to rescind the teacher prep regs on March 2, 2017 with 10 cosponsors.

The following week the Senate took up H. J. Res. 58 and passed it with a [vote of 59-40](#) on March 8, 2017.

7 Dems and 1 Independent voted in favor.

Review the Congressional Record [March 7](#) and [March 8](#).

# Sent to the President for His Signature

Once the President signs the joint resolution into law the teacher prep regs will be rescinded.

We have not heard when he will sign it, but it is expected to be soon.

AACTE will alert you when the joint resolution is signed into law.

**YOUR ADVOCACY WORKED!**  
**THANK YOU!**

# Title II of the Higher Education Act – What Changes After the Regs are Gone? **Nothing**

Your Title II data reporting continues as required by law.

The State continues creating its scorecard as required by law.

Curious? Read [Title II of HEA](#)

*You, your state, and your K-12 partners will not have to build a data system & rate programs based on the mandated metrics as the regs required.*

# Implementation of ESSA



# Department's ESSA Webpage

To stay updated on the latest that is released from the U.S. Department of Education, it is recommended to monitor the Department's [resources webpage](#), which contains a vast amount of information on the steps being undertaken by the Department as well as what is being shared with the states.

# Consolidated State Plan

States will submit their Consolidated State Plans **by either April 3 or September 18, 2017**. Included in the CSP:

How it will spend Title II-A money (see our [ESEA Policy Page](#))

The state will need to define various terms in their state plan including:

- Effective teacher
- Inexperienced teacher
- Out-of-field teacher

The state will need to describe in its consolidated plan aspects related to educator prep, including the state's system to ensure adequate preparation of new educators, as well as how the state plans to ensure equitable distribution of teachers.

# Pending Rescindment of the ESSA Regulations on Accountability, Consolidated State Plans, & Data Collection

Like the teacher prep regs, the Congress has sent a CRA to rescind these regulations to the President for his signature.

Since passage of the CRA in the Senate, the U.S. Department of Education has released a new template for a [consolidated state plan](#).

The deadlines remain of April 3 of September 18 with some leeway offered.

Not sure when your state is submitting? Check [here](#).

# It's a K-12 bill, Why Bother?

Title II of ESSA is full of opportunity for educator preparation – as long as you are at the table. Otherwise someone else is trying to create these programs and possibly without the quality that your programs offer. *(authorized at \$2.3 billion)*  
*It also has more money than Title II of the Higher Education Act (\$43.1m)*

Twenty states will submit state plans in approximately 2 weeks.

**If you are not at the table than  
most likely you are on the  
menu.**

# Your Actions and Engagement

# March 2017 Key Advocacy Actions

[Explore the AACTE Advocacy Center](#) to learn new advocacy skills or strengthen your current skills. New advocacy guides were posted – have you checked them out?

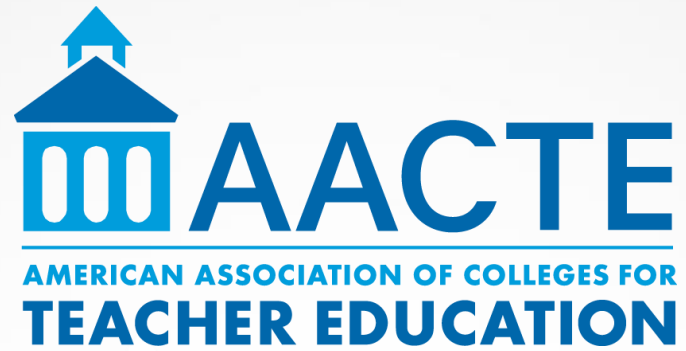
**STAY TUNED** for Action Alerts on federal funding for key programs that support your work in educator preparation. (Sign up if you have not at the Advocacy Center!)

**REGISTER** for activities during [AACTE's Washington Week](#)  
June 4-7, 2017; Bring students & K-12 partners!

State Leaders Institute  
Holmes Summer Policy Institute  
Day on the Hill

# Resources

- [Advocacy Center](#)
- Advocacy Guides – **TELL US WHAT YOU NEED!**
- AACTE Action Alerts
- Blogs – Ed Prep Matters
- Tweets - @AACTE, @Koolbeck
- Websites on state and federal policy
- Monthly Federal update webinars
  - 2 days of the week
  - 2 different times to accommodate time zones
- Webinars on advocacy campaigns & immediate action needs



**Questions?**



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