

August 15, 2019

Summary of Call with Senator Warren's Education Staff

Thanks to those who were able to join yesterday's conference call with Senator Warren's Education Staff, Josh Delaney and Alex Davidson. We are incredibly grateful that they were able to take the time to share their insight with Council members. I wanted to give a quick update on some of the issues discussed.

- **HELP Committee and Higher Education Act (HEA)**
 - The Senate Education Committee is still in the process of negotiating bipartisan reauthorization of HEA but areas of disagreement between Senate Democrats and Republicans have stalled progress
 - Education Appropriations is expected to be the focus when lawmakers return from recess in September. Education funding could be passed in September, or could be rolled into a Continuing resolution. Several HEA programs (such as funding to Historically Black universities and other minority serving colleges) that are set to expire by Sept. 30th could be reauthorized.
 - Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) has expressed interest in pursuing school safety in the wake of mass shootings. He sent a [letter](#) on August 9th to Senate HELP Committee Members asking them to suggest bipartisan ways to increase safety in schools. Lastly, it was noted that there will very likely not be any Senate Education hearings in the fall, as Senator Alexander doesn't have interest in adding any more than what they had at the beginning of the year.
- **Senator Warren's College Student Hunger Act**
 - Introduced on July 17th, Senator Warren's [College Student Hunger Act](#) was initially inspired by visits to Bunker Hill Community College's student food pantry and conversations with BHCC President Pam Eddinger. The Bill would adjust SNAP to ensure that any student who is eligible for Pell Grants will be eligible to receive benefits.
 - It was noted that SNAP provisions are contained in the FARM Act, which was reauthorized in 2018 and is not due to be addressed for 5 years.
 - Several other bills focusing on student hunger have been proposed: Senator Kamala Harris' (D-CA) [BASIC Act](#), Senator Chris Murphy's (D-CT) [Closing the College](#)

[Hunger Gap Act](#), Representative Marcia Fudge's (D-OH) [STOP Campus Hunger Act](#), and Representative Adam Schiff's (D-CA) [Food for Thought Act](#). It is possible provisions from these bills could be combined.

I also wanted to pass along contact information for Josh and Alex.

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