



NCDA February Monthly Report

Last Updated: March 15, 2023

Washington Update

February marked the true beginning of the 118th Congress now that all Committees are fully formed and organized. This also brought the first substantial hearings of the year which laid the groundwork of the Committee work and priorities this Congress. Lobbyit monitored all pertinent committee activities with an eye towards appropriations season.

State of the Union

On February 7th, President Joe Biden exhorted Congress to work with him to “finish the job” of rebuilding the economy and uniting the nation as he delivered a State of the Union address aimed at reassuring a country beset by pessimism and making the subtle argument ahead of an expected Spring re-election announcement.

In his 73-minute speech, Biden sought to illustrate substantial improvements compared to the state of the country two years ago: from a reeling economy to one prosperous with new jobs; from a crippled, pandemic-weary nation to one that has now reopened, and an overwhelming bipartisan infrastructure package that rivals President Eisenhower’s investment.

Members of both parties coalesced around their messaging in favor of or criticizing President Biden’s address to the nation.

Debt Ceiling

The debt limit—commonly called the debt ceiling—is the maximum amount of debt that the Department of the Treasury can issue to the public or to other federal agencies. The amount is set by law and has been increased or suspended over the years to allow for the additional borrowing needed to finance the government’s operations. On December 16, 2021, lawmakers raised the debt limit by \$2.5 trillion to a total of \$31.4 trillion. On January 19, 2023, that limit was reached, and the Treasury announced a “debt issuance suspension period” during which, under current law, it can take well-established “extraordinary measures” to borrow additional funds without breaching the debt ceiling.

The Congressional Budget Office projects that, if the debt limit remains unchanged, the government’s ability to borrow using extraordinary measures will be exhausted between July and September 2023—that is, in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. The projected exhaustion date is uncertain because the timing and amount of revenue collections and outlays over the intervening months could differ from CBO’s projections. Income tax receipts in April could be more or less than CBO estimates. If those receipts fell short of estimated amounts—for example, if capital gains realizations in 2022 were smaller or if U.S. income growth slowed by more in early calendar year 2023 than CBO projected—the extraordinary measures could be exhausted sooner, and the Treasury could run out of funds before July.

If the debt limit is not raised or suspended before the extraordinary measures are exhausted, the government would be unable to pay its obligations fully. As a result, the government would have to delay making payments for some activities, default on its debt obligations, or both.

Presidential Budget Set for March Publication

The Biden Administration has signaled that its budget proposal will publish on March 9th. President Biden’s budget proposal must navigate a divided Congress where House Republicans will seek to reduce spending and limit additional spending that could add to ongoing inflationary pressures. President Joe Biden has also pledged to raise taxes on the “ultra wealthy” while toeing the line of avoiding tax increases on Americans making less than \$400,000 a year.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has examined baseline projections of what the federal budget and economy would look like if current tax policy remain unchanged. CBO projects a federal budget deficit of \$1.4 trillion for 2023. In the agency’s projections, deficits generally increase over the coming years; the shortfall in 2033 is \$2.7 trillion. The deficit amounts to 5.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023, swells to 6.1 percent of GDP in 2024 and 2025, and then declines in the two years that follow. After 2027, deficits increase again, reaching 6.9 percent of GDP in 2033—a level exceeded only five times since 1946.

Although the CBO is a nonpartisan agency, expect both parties to spin data to their favor as Congress parses spending details to avoid a year-end shutdown if government funding expires.

Fly-In Prep

NCDA finalized its date of April 25th for its Hill day visit. The Lobbyit team has blocked off this day and is going to coordinate with NCDA to get meetings in the House, Senate, and we discussed a potential engagement with the Department of Education. Additionally, NCDA leadership has also engaged with the Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser for potential meetings and plans to nominate the Mayor as their legislator of the year.

Student Loan Litigation Reaches Supreme Court

On February 28th, the Supreme Court heard arguments in two cases about the Biden administration's proposed student loan forgiveness program — Biden v. Nebraska and U.S. Department of Education v. Brown. The cases focused on two key questions – do the petitioners meet the constitutional requirement for “standing,” or injury, from the policy, and does the Department of Education have the legal authority to forgive student loan debt? Depending on the Court's decision, millions of Americans will have a substantial share, if not all, of their student loans forgiven.

Biden v. Nebraska (brought by six states — Nebraska, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, and South Carolina) offered the most plausible standing argument of the two cases, with the main argument that Missouri could face reduced contributions from the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA), one of the largest federal student loan servicers. MOHELA is set up as a third-party from the state and has an obligation to contribute to Missouri state university funds, and petitioners argue that if MOHELA has fewer customers due to loan forgiveness, they will be unable to make those obligations.

The Department of Justice presented the case for the Secretary of Education having the authority to forgive student loans. Drawing on the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students (HEROES) Act of 2003 which has provided justification for the ongoing student loan payment pause, the Department argues they have the authority to forgive student loans. Much of the debate centered around the meaning of the words “waive or modify” and the scope implied by Congress when passing the HEROES Act. At the heart of the issue is the question of economic impact and whether it should factor in legal decisions to waive or modify.

The Supreme Court will issue its final decision in June. However, the upcoming legal decision has no impact on the Education Department's revision to income-driven repayment plans. The draft rules, now out for public comment, illustrate the most generous undergraduate student loan repayment plan yet:

- Borrowers earning less than about \$32,800 individually, or less than \$67,500 for a family of four, would see \$0 monthly bills.
- Most other borrowers would see their payments cut by at least half.
- Students who borrow less than \$12,000 would see their remaining balances wiped away after 10 years of payments, instead of 20 to 25 years.

Department of Education Addresses Teacher Shortage

On February 15th, the U.S. Department of Education (Department) announced first-ever awards, totaling over \$18 million, for the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program grants to increase high-quality teacher preparation programs for teachers of color, strengthen the diversity of our teacher pipeline, and address teacher shortages.

The Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program (Hawkins Program), named for Augustus F. Hawkins, the first Black politician elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from west of the Mississippi River, supports comprehensive, high-quality teacher preparation programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). A priority in President Biden's FY 22 budget proposal, this year marks the first time the Hawkins Program has received funding since its creation in 2008. From the FY 2022 appropriation for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, Congress allocated \$8 million for the Hawkins program. The Department is also using funds appropriated for the Hawkins Program in FY 2023 to bring the total for these grants to over \$18 million.

Education & Workforce Committee Hearing: “American Education in Crisis”

Fewer Americans are in the workforce because they can't access the education and training needed for many of those jobs, according to the president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).

Speaking at the first House Education and the Workforce Committee hearing of the year — which looked at myriad K-12 and postsecondary issues over more than three hours on Wednesday — Monty Sullivan said the skills requirements for available and emerging jobs in the U.S. continues to grow and change. But potential workers are struggling to acquire those skills through education and training.

“There are far too many people on the sidelines” rather than participating in the economy, Sullivan said, pointing to a labor force participation rate that has steadily dropped over the decades to 62.4% last month.

Many prospective learners want access to quality, short-term programs to get the jobs they seek, Sullivan said. While enrollment is down in credit-enrolled programs at most Louisiana community and technical colleges, “students are showing up at our doorsteps in long lines because they want to participate in short-term, non-credit programs,” he said.

Bills by Issue

National Career Development Association (26)

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HJRES 28	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 02 06	In House	None	None	<div><div>8.8%</div><div>71.4%</div></div>

Title

Expressing support for designation of the week of February 6, 2023, through February 10, 2023, as "National School Counseling Week".

Description

This joint resolution honors the contributions of school counselors to the success of students in elementary and secondary schools. The resolution encourages the observation of National School Counseling Week with ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the crucial role school counselors play in preparing students for fulfilling lives as contributing members of society.

Primary Sponsors

Linda Sanchez

Introduction Date: 2023-02-06

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 5	Placed On The Union Calendar Calendar No 4 2023 03 14	In House	None	None	<div><div>14.7%</div><div>73.7%</div></div>

Title

Parents Bill of Rights Act

Primary Sponsors

Julia Letlow

Introduction Date: 2023-03-01

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	HR 174	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 09	In House	None	None	6.8%	68.1%

Title

No Federal Funding for Teacher's Unions Act

Description

No Federal Funding for Teacher's Unions Act This bill prohibits labor organizations of education professionals from receiving federal funds.

Primary Sponsors

Ronny Jackson

Introduction Date: 2023-01-09

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 202	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 09	In House	None	None	<div><div>4.2%</div><div>59.4%</div></div>

Title

States' Education Reclamation Act of 2023

Introduction Date: 2023-01-09

Description

States' Education Reclamation Act of 2023 This bill abolishes the Department of Education (ED) and repeals any program for which it has administrative responsibility. The Department of the Treasury shall provide grants to states, for FY2023-FY2031, for elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education purposes permitted by state law. The level of funding is set at the amount provided to states for federal elementary and secondary education programs and the amount provided for federal postsecondary education programs, respectively, for FY2023, minus the funding provided for education programs that the bill transfers to other federal agencies. States must contract for an annual audit of their expenditures or transfers of grant funds. Program administrative responsibility and delegation of authority are transferred as follows: * ED's job training programs to the Department of Labor, * each special education grant program under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), * ED's Indian education programs to the Department of the Interior, * each Impact Aid program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to the Department of Defense, * the Federal Pell Grant program and each federal student loan program to Treasury, and * programs under the jurisdiction of the Institute of Education Sciences or the D.C. Opportunity Scholarship Program to HHS.

Primary Sponsors

David Rouzer

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 216	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 09	In House	None	None	<div><div>4.3%</div><div>71.5%</div></div>

Title

My Child, My Choice Act of 2023

Introduction Date: 2023-01-09

Description

My Child, My Choice Act of 2023 This bill prohibits an elementary school from receiving federal education funds unless a teacher requests written parental consent prior to teaching a lesson specifically related to gender identity, sexual orientation, or transgender studies. In particular, the bill requires a teacher to request written consent from the parent of each student enrolled in the class prior to teaching the lesson. If a parent does not submit written consent to the lesson, then the school must provide the student with an alternative period of learning or study hall. Further, the teacher may not teach the lesson if the principal does not receive written consent from the parents of at least 50% of the students enrolled in the class.

Primary Sponsors

Jeff Van Drew

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	HR 460	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 24	In House	None	None	7.7%	66.2%

Title

SPELL Act

Introduction Date: 2023-01-24

Description

Supporting Providers of English Language Learning Act or the SPELL Act This bill allows elementary and secondary school teachers who teach English learners, bilingual students, or dual language immersion students to receive additional amounts of student loan forgiveness and loan cancellation.

Primary Sponsors

Adriano Espaillat

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	HR 496	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 25	In House	None	None	6.7%	68.0%

Title

Promoting Employment and Lifelong Learning Act

Introduction Date: 2023-01-25

Primary Sponsors

Elise Stefanik

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 525	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 25	In House	None	None	<div><div>4.6%</div><div>68.3%</div></div>

Title

Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2023

Introduction Date: 2023-01-25

Description

Mentoring to Succeed Act of 2023 This bill requires the Department of Education to award grants to high-need local educational agencies, high-need schools, and local governments to establish, expand, or support school-based mentoring programs that assist at-risk students in developing cognitive skills and promoting social-emotional learning to prepare them for success in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce. Additionally, the bill directs the Institute of Education Sciences to conduct a study to identify successful school-based mentoring programs and evaluate the effectiveness of the grant program established by this bill.

Primary Sponsors

Jan Schakowsky

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	HR 631	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 30	In House	None	None	4.8%	65.7%

Title

A PLUS Act

Introduction Date: 2023-01-30

Description

Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success Act or the A PLUS Act
This bill creates a framework under which states may receive federal elementary and secondary education funds on a consolidated basis and use such funds for any educational purpose permitted by state law.

Primary Sponsors

John Moolenaar

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	HR 653	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 01 31	In House	None	None	5.2%	72.7%

Title

Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act

Introduction Date: 2023-01-31

Description

Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act This bill establishes a transition-to-success mentoring program requiring the Department of Education (ED) to award grants to eligible entities (e.g., local educational agencies) to provide school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in transitioning from middle to high school. ED must also work with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to (1) refer grant recipients to the National Mentoring Resource Center to obtain mentoring resources, and (2) provide grant recipients with information regarding transitional services for eligible students returning from correctional facilities and transition services for students with disabilities.

Primary Sponsors

Andre Carson

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 744	Referred To The Committee On Energy And Commerce And In Addition To The Committee On Education And The Workforce For A Period To Be Subsequently Determined By The Speaker In Each Case For Consideration Of Such Provisions As Fall Within The Jurisdiction Of The Committee Concerned 2023 02 02	In House	None	None	<div><div>4.5%</div><div>79.2%</div></div>

Title

Supporting the Mental Health of Educators and Staff Act of 2023

Introduction Date: 2023-02-02

Primary Sponsors

Suzanne Bonamici

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 845	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 02 06	In House	None	None	<div>5.5%</div> <div>70.6%</div>

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HR 882	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 02 08	In House	None	None	<div> <div>9.6%</div> <div>76.3%</div> </div>

Title

American Teacher Act

Primary Sponsors

Freddi Wilson

Introduction Date: 2023-02-08

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	HR 1050	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 02 14	In House	None	None	4.2%	82.4%

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	HR 1573	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 03 14	In House	None	None	0.0%	0.0%

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HRES 110	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 02 08	In House	None	None	<div><div>16.7%</div><div>79.4%</div></div>

Title

Supporting the goals and ideals of "Career and Technical Education Month".

Description

This resolution supports the designation of Career and Technical Education Month to celebrate career and technical education across the United States.

Primary Sponsors

G.T. Thompson

Introduction Date: 2023-02-08

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	HRES 219	Referred To The House Committee On Education And The Workforce 2023 03 10	In House	None	None	<div><div>11.6%</div><div>73.9%</div></div>

Title

Expressing support for developing supportive, inclusive, safe, and responsive public schools that provide all students with a well-rounded education and prepare all students for success in life and for the exercise of their social and economic rights, fostering parental involvement in education in a manner that builds partnerships and trust between parents and educators, and protecting the civil rights of students and families.

Primary Sponsors

Suzanne Bonamici

Introduction Date: 2023-03-10

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	S 57	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Finance 2023 01 24	In Senate	None	None	4.9%	66.1%

Title

Introduction Date: 2023-01-24

Student Empowerment Act

Description

Student Empowerment Act This bill allows tax-exempt distributions from qualified tuition programs (known as 529 plans) to be used for additional educational expenses in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary school. (Under current law, distributions in connection with an elementary or secondary school are limited to tuition for a public, private, or religious school.) The bill allows the distributions to be used for additional educational expenses, including * curriculum and curricular materials, * books or other instructional materials, * online educational materials, * tutoring or educational classes outside the home, * testing fees, * fees for dual enrollment in an institution of higher education, and * educational therapies for students with disabilities. Distributions may also be used for tuition and the purposes above in connection with a homeschool (whether treated as a homeschool or a private school under state law).

Primary Sponsors

Ted Cruz

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 110	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2023 01 26	In Senate	None	None	<div><div>2.4%</div><div>65.1%</div></div>

Title

Introduction Date: 2023-01-26

A PLUS Act

Description

Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success Act or the A PLUS Act
This bill creates a framework under which states may receive federal elementary and secondary education funds on a consolidated basis and use such funds for any educational purpose permitted by state law.

Primary Sponsors

Steve Daines

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 161	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2023 01 31	In Senate	Monitor	Medium	26.2% 77.2%

Title

JOB S Act of 2023

Primary Sponsors

Tim Kaine

Bill Summary: Last edited by Jacob Kohn at Feb 15, 2023, 3:38 PM
Specifically, the JOBS Act would amend the Higher Education Act by:
Expanding Pell Grant eligibility to students enrolled in rigorous and high-quality, short-term skills and job training programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials and certificates and ultimately employment in high-wage, high-skill industry sectors or careers Ensuring students who receive Pell Grants are earning high-quality postsecondary credentials by requiring that the credentials: - Meet the standards under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), such as meaningful career counseling and aligning programs to in-demand career pathways or registered apprenticeship programs - Are recognized by employers, industry, or sector partnerships - Align with the skill needs of industries in the state or local economy - Are approved by the state workforce board in addition to the U.S. Department of Education Defining eligible job training programs as those providing career and technical education instruction at an institution of higher education, such as a community or technical college that provides: - At least 150 clock hours of instruction time over a period of at least 8 weeks - Training that meets the needs of the local or regional workforce and industry partnerships - Streamlined ability to transfer credits so students can continue to pursue further education in their careers - Students with licenses, certifications, or credentials that meet the hiring requirements of multiple employers in the field for which the job training is offered

Introduction Date: 2023-01-31

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 182	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2023 01 31	In Senate	None	None	17.7% 72.0%

Title

Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act

Introduction Date: 2023-01-31

Description

Transition-to-Success Mentoring Act This bill establishes a transition-to-success mentoring program requiring the Department of Education (ED) to award grants to eligible entities (e.g., local educational agencies) to provide school-based mentoring programs to assist at-risk students in transitioning from middle to high school. ED must also work with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to (1) refer grant recipients to the National Mentoring Resource Center to obtain mentoring resources, and (2) provide grant recipients with information regarding transitional services for eligible students returning from correctional facilities and transition services for students with disabilities.

Primary Sponsors

Cory Booker

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 236	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2023 02 02	In Senate	None	None	<div><div>24.5%</div><div>77.9%</div></div>

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook
US	S 558	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2023 02 28	In Senate	None	None	<div><div>5.4%</div><div>67.9%</div></div>

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	S 766	Read Twice And Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2023 03 09	In Senate	None	None	0.0%	0.0%

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	SRES 67	Submitted In The Senate Considered And Agreed To Without Amendment And With A Preamble By Unanimous Consent Consideration Cr S 431 432 Text Cr S 429 430 2023 02 15	In Senate	None	None	95.2%	71.0%

State	Bill Number	Last Action	Status	Position	Priority	FN Outlook	
US	SRES 105	Referred To The Committee On Health Education Labor And Pensions 2023 03 14	In Senate	None	None	0.0%	0.0%
Title			Introduction Date: 2023-03-14				
A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of March 6 through March 10, 2023, as "National Social and Emotional Learning Week" to recognize the critical role social and emotional learning plays in supporting the academic success and overall well-being of students, educators, and families.							
Primary Sponsors							
Dick Durbin							

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