



SUNY Federal Relations Update Tuesday June 23rd, 2009

Congress continues work on its regular appropriation legislation, even as it addresses the Obama Administration's ambitious policy agenda. After a relatively fast start, the FY10 appropriations process has slowed, and with significant floor time this fall devoted to climate change and health care legislation, congressional leaders will find it difficult to avoid an end-of-the year omnibus bill that combines several of the 12 FY10 appropriations bills.

FY10 Appropriations Update:

Members of the House of Representatives have begun to approve subcommittee language for various appropriations bills within the last week. To date subcommittee level bills have been approved from the following: Agriculture; Commerce, Justice, Science; Homeland Security; Interior and Environment; and the Legislative Branch. On June 18, the CJS appropriations bill was the first bill passed the full House by a vote of 259-157. The House on Friday passed its Legislative Branch appropriations bill by a vote of 232-178. Approval of the subcommittee language, paves the way for the language to be presented to the full Committee and subsequently sent to the floor for a vote. Several other subcommittees are scheduled before the 4th of July recess, the remainder will take place after July 8.

The Senate continues to lag behind in its approval of subcommittee and committee language having only approved its Homeland Security and Legislative Branch appropriations bills through full committee to date. Interior and Environment, as well as Commerce, Justice, Science have been passed through the subcommittee stages. The Senate has scheduled several more subcommittee actions in the coming weeks, but most will take place after the 4th of July recess.

With the revised transparency rules in the both the House and Senate, we are able to see progress in direct appropriations to SUNY schools long before the end of the fiscal year (September 30). As we identify projects supported in appropriations bill language, we will notify campuses of their successes.

Other Major Policy Updates:

- House Democratic leaders had hoped to complete work on a climate change bill (H.R. 2454) before the July 4th recess, but the measure is likely to be delayed into July. The Senate bill is not expected to reach the Senate floor until the fall.
- House and Senate committees continue their efforts to develop health care legislation that meets leadership goals for greater coverage and efficiencies, keeps the major stakeholders

cooperating, and holds projected costs below \$1 trillion. House leaders had hoped to consider a bill on the floor before the August recess, but this now appears unlikely. The Senate hopes to mark up their bill before the July 4th recess, but there is no estimate on when it will likely reach the Senate floor.

· The House Education and Labor Committee has delayed, probably until after the July 4 recess, consideration of reconciliation legislation that would change the Pell Grant and student loan programs. You will recall that the Obama Administration has called for making the Pell Grant an entitlement and covering much of the 10-year cost of that change by eliminating federally guaranteed private student loans.

In Other News:

Obama Plans Boost for Community Colleges

Innovations Economy Matching Grants Program

House Passes Legislation Creating the Simon Study Abroad Foundation

Chancellor Zimpher to continue her work with Urban Serving Universities

ARRA Funding Opportunities

Bill Extending GI Benefits to Children of Fallen On Its Way to White House

Announcement of New York State Intergovernmental Energy Partnership

Cole Abraham Clark arrives early

Obama Plans Boost for Community Colleges

President Obama will soon announce a plan for a major increase in support for community colleges, with the goal of promoting job training programs, the [Chicago Tribune](#) reported. The newspaper quoted Rahm Emanuel, the White House chief of staff, as telling the Democratic Leadership Council on Wednesday that "in the next couple of weeks, you will see a major announcement by the president on community colleges and job training and the rewriting of all the legislation related to job training and community ed. in the country -- but, most importantly, in the area of community colleges." Emanuel said that the goal of the proposal will be to enable community colleges to help five million more workers than they would be able to otherwise

Innovations Economy Matching Grants Program (guidelines released)

On June 8th, Governor Patterson held a press conference announcing the creation of an Innovation Economy Matching Grant program to be used in conjunction with receiving an ARRA grant award. This new initiative will contribute an additional 10% matching funds on top of the ARRA funds, although not every ARRA award will be eligible for this match. Read the press release at: (http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/press_0608091.html).

The guidelines for applying for this program are now up (applications for matches can be submitted through the Governor's recovery website at http://www.recovery.ny.gov/resources/Innovation_Economy_Matching_Grants.htm).

Priority in matching will go to proposals deemed to demonstrate significant industry ties and contribution toward a national and international competitive advantage of the state in the innovation economy. The guidelines can be found on NYSTAR's website at: <http://www.nystar.state.ny.us/matching>.

House Passes Legislation Creating the Simon Study Abroad Foundation

The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday passed [The Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 \(H.R. 2410\)](#), which includes provisions establishing the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation. Read more about Simon Study Abroad from A.P.L.U at: (<https://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1292&srctid=1&erid=292476>).

Chancellor Zimpher to continue her work with Urban Serving Universities

Prior to Chancellor Zimpher joining SUNY, while at the University of Cincinnati, an urban research university, she was actively involved with the Urban Serving Universities initiative. Her commitment to advancing the USUs will continue here at SUNY. As Chair of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities, Chancellor Zimpher and Luis M. Proenza, chair of the A·P·L·U Commission on the Urban Agenda, will co-chair the two-day meeting in Washington, DC July 20-21. Read more about the summer meeting and view the agenda at: <https://www.aplu.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=1300&srctid=1&erid=292476>

ARRA Funding Opportunities

Our office continues to track and forward ARRA funding opportunities to campuses. Please regularly check out our Federal Stimulus Watch website, which will post all ARRA funding announcements as well as highlight newly awarded ARRA grants through press releases and awards already received by campuses and other important related information at: http://www.suny.edu/govtRelations/federal/economic_recovery/index.cfm

Bill Extending GI Benefits to Children of Fallen On Its Way to White House

On Thursday June 18th, the Senate passed the 2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill, which included language that will allow new Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to transfer to children of fallen soldiers. The measure will now be sent to President Barack Obama for his signature.

The new law would allow children to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits that could have been transferred to them if their military parent had lived. Transfer rights are a key part of the new veterans' benefit that is scheduled to take effect on Aug. 1. Until now, the VA has had to tell children of troops killed in Iraq that they're not eligible for G.I. Bill benefits because their father or mother did not serve long enough before they died.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi spoke to group of military families earlier this week and said the extension of benefits "... was a direct result of meetings that we had with ... members of the

Military Families Association and other family members who came here and said: 'How could it be that if I had a family member who transfers his or her GI bill opportunities to another family member, that's OK? But if my family member has fallen in battle, then the privilege... the right... goes away?' That's all different now."

Announcement of New York State Intergovernmental Energy Partnership

On Monday, Rep. Steve Israel of Long Island, Mayor Matthew J. Driscoll of Syracuse, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and Assemblywoman RoAnn M. Destito of Rome announced the formation of the New York State Intergovernmental Energy Partnership, a new group of elected officials committed to green energy innovation and helping New York become the new green energy leader in the United States.

The Partnership was proposed by Rep. Israel, a Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, who has long worked to unite New York's regions for the purpose of fostering a new alternative energy economy and creating green jobs.

Read the entire press release:

<http://israel.house.gov/?sectionid=12§iontree=5,12&itemid=711>

And Finally...

Cole Abraham Clark arrives early

The Washington, DC SUNY office of Federal Relations is excited to announce the birth of Cole Abraham Clark. He joined us at 4lbs 8 oz, 17 inches at 10:03 on Wednesday, June 17, a little earlier than Liz expected but both mom and baby are doing very well. They all went home on Father's day to celebrate with dad, Andy. Liz will be on maternity leave from the DC office until mid-September. Please contact Angie Anderson, at angie.anderson@suny.edu or 202-220-1315 if you need assistance.