

Legislative Update

Jon Bernstein

President, Bernstein Strategy Group



Legislative Landscape

- DC environment
- FY24 appropriations
- Other legislative priorities
- Hill Talking Points

DC Environment

Divided Government: 51 D/49 R Senate; 222 R-213 D House

New Leaders:

- House: Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) and Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)
- Senate: Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

New Committee Leaders:

- House: Appropriations Subcommittee: Chair Robert Aderholt (R-AL) and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
- Education & Workforce: Chair Virginia Foxx (R-NC) & Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA)
- Senate: Appropriations Subcommittee: Chair Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Ranking Member Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)
- HELP Committee: Chair Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA)



**National Association
of Federally Impacted Schools**

DC Environment

- Congress has been slow to organize and slow to legislate
- Debt Ceiling crisis looms over everything particularly appropriations
 - Will spending caps and/or funding cuts be part of any deal?
- Appropriations season officially began with March 9th release of President's budget
- Hybrid environment persists
 - More in-person but still many virtual meetings
 - Staff not physically in the office every day

DC Environment

- Congress mainly focusing on two K-12 issues right now
 - Senate Democrats: Teacher shortages – Pay Teacher Act (Sanders)
 - NAFIS Endorsed
 - Messaging bill
 - House Republicans: Parental Involvement – Parents Bill of Rights (Letlow/Foxx)
 - Approved by Committee, coming to the floor next week
 - Unlikely to be considered by the Senate

FY24 Appropriations

- Impact Aid did exceptionally well in FY23
 - \$59 million increase in Basic Support
 - \$1 million increase in Federal Property
 - \$1 million increase in Construction (the first in many years)
- For FY24, we are seeking a \$70 million increase overall
 - \$65 million increase in Basic Support
 - \$2 million increase in Federal Property
 - \$1.5 million increase in Construction
 - \$1.5 million increase in Children with Disabilities

FY24 Appropriations

- President's FY24 Budget
 - 13.6% increase for Department of Education
 - Big increases for Title I, IDEA and Title III
 - Flat funding for Impact Aid and Title II

Appropriations Progress

\$132 M in 4 Years

Section	FY20 Final	FY21 Final	FY22 Final	FY23 Final
Federal Property	\$75.31 M	\$76.31 M	\$77.31 M	\$78.31M
Basic Support	\$1,340.24 M	\$1,354.24 M	\$1,409.24 M	\$1,468.24M
Disabilities	\$48.32 M	\$48.32 M	\$48.32 M	\$48.32M
Construction	\$17.41 M	\$17.41 M	\$17.41 M	\$18.41M
Facilities	\$4.84 M	\$4.84 M	\$4.84 M	\$4.84M
Total	\$1,486.11 B	\$1,501.11 B	\$1,557.11 B	\$1,618.11B

Advancing Toward Full Funding

- *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act*
 - Working to reintroduce in both chambers with updated figures
 - House: Levin (D-CA) and Cole (R-OK)
 - Senate: Lujan (D-NM), Tillis (R-NC) and Gillibrand (D-NY)
 - Both bills include a five-year glidepath to
 - Fully fund Basic Support (\$2.245 billion by 2029)
 - Provide a proportional increase to Federal Property (\$150 million by 2029)
 - Increase Children With Disability funding (\$120 million by 2029)
 - Return Construction to a \$45 million per year program by 2029.



Advancing Toward Full Funding

Strong organizational support over the years

National Association of
Federally Impacted Schools
(NAFIS)

National Education
Association (NEA)

Blue Star Families

Military Child Education
Coalition

Tragedy Assistance Program
for Survivors (TAPS)

Service Women's Action
Network

National Military Family
Association

Fleet Reserve Association
The Enlisted Association
(TREA)

Military Officers Association
of America (MOAA)

Rebuild America's Schools

EDGE Consulting Partners

AASA The School

Superintendents Association

American Federation of
School Administrators

National Association of
Secondary School Principals

National Math and Science
Initiative

National Disability Rights
Network

Council of Administrators of
Special Education

San Diego Unified School
District

National Rural Education
Advocacy Consortium

Organizations Concerned
about Rural Education
(OCRE)

National Indian Education
Association

Federal Lands Impacted
Schools Association

Military Impacted Schools
Association

National Indian Impacted
Schools Association

Mid-to-Low LOT Schools



Infrastructure

- Impact Aid Infrastructure Act
 - Working on revamping existing bill to address issues such as prioritizing funds and teacher housing on tribal lands.
 - For reintroduction
 - House – will need a new Democratic and Republican leads to replace Reps. O’Halloran and Young
 - Senate – will need a Republican to make this bipartisan

FY24 Appropriations Requests

- THANK them for their support in helping secure the FY 2024 funding increases
- REQUEST support for a \$70 million increase for Impact Aid in FY 2023
 - \$2 million increase for Federal Property would help cover the cost of new school districts and help provide a payment in lieu of taxes that recognizes the increase in assessed value of taxable land
 - \$65 million increase for Basic Support will help maintain purchasing power of Impact Aid dollars
 - \$1.5 million for Construction
 - \$1.5 million for Children with Disabilities
- EXPLAIN what an increase to Impact Aid could mean to your district

SENATE COALITION MEMBERS

118TH CONGRESS

Co-Chairs

- Crapo, Michael (R-ID)
- Hirono, Mazie (D-HI)
- Murray, Patty (D-WA)
- Thune, John (R-SD)

General Membership

- Barrasso, John (R-WY)
- Bennet, Michael (D-CO)
- Brown, Sherrod (D-OH)
- Cantwell, Maria (D-WA)
- Cornyn, John (R-TX)
- Cramer, Kevin (R-ND)
- Daines, Steve (R-MT)
- Durbin, Richard (D-IL)
- Feinstein, Dianne (D-CA)
- Fischer, Deb (R-NE)
- Gillibrand, Kirsten (D-NY)
- Hoeven, John (R-ND)
- Inhofe, Jim (R-OK)
- Kaine, Tim (D-VA)
- Kelly, Mark (D-AZ)
- Klobuchar, Amy (D-MN)
- Lummis, Cynthia (R-WY)
- McConnell, Mitch (R-KY)
- Menendez, Robert (D-NJ)
- Murkowski, Lisa (R-AK)
- Peters, Gary (D-MI)
- Reed, Jack (D-RI)
- Risch, James (R-ID)
- Rounds, Mike (R-SD)
- Schatz, Brian (D-HI)
- Schumer, Charles (D-NY)
- Sinema, Kyrsten (D-AZ)
- Smith, Tina (D-MN)
- Stabenow, Debbie (D-MI)
- Tester, Jon (D-MT)
- Whitehouse, Sheldon (D-RI)

HOUSE COALITION MEMBERS

118TH CONGRESS

Co-Chairs

- Courtney, Joseph (D-CT)
- Newhouse, Dan (R-WA)

Steering Committee

- Pallone, Frank (D-NJ)
- Scott, Bobby (D-VA)
- Smith, Chris (R-NJ)

General Membership

- Amodei, Mark (R-NV)
- Armstrong, Kelly (R-ND)
- Bacon, Don (R-NE)
- Bishop, Sanford (D-GA)
- Bost, Mike (R-IL)
- Brownley, Julia (D-CA)
- Bucshon, Larry (R-IN)
- Burgess, Michael (R-TX)
- Calvert, Ken (R-CA)
- Carson, André (D-IN)
- Carter, Buddy (R-GA)
- Carter, John (R-TX)
- Castro, Joaquin (D-TX)
- Cicilline, David (D-RI)
- Clyburn, James (D-SC)
- Cole, Tom (R-OK)
- Connolly, Gerald (D-VA)
- Cuellar, Henry (D-TX)
- Davis, Danny (D-IL)
- DeFazio, Peter (D-OR)
- DeBene, Suzan (D-WA)
- Doggett, Lloyd (D-TX)
- Fischbach, Michelle (R-MN)
- Foster, Bill (D-IL)
- Gosar, Paul (R-AZ)
- Gottheimer, Josh (D-NJ)
- Granger, Kay (R-TX)
- Grijalva, Raúl (D-AZ)
- Guthrie, Brett (R-KY)
- Guest, Michael (R-MS)
- Hoyer, Steny (D-MD)
- Huffman, Jared (D-CA)
- Johnson, Dusty (R-SD)
- Kilmer, Derek (D-WA)
- Kim, Andy (D-NJ)
- Lamborn, Doug (R-CO)
- Larsen, Rick (D-WA)
- Lee, Barbara (D-CA)
- Lowenthal, Alan (D-CA)
- Lucas, Frank (R-OK)
- Maloney, Sean Patrick (D-NY)
- McCarthy, Kevin (R-CA)
- McMorris Rodgers, Cathy (R-WA)
- Mullin, Markwayne (R-OK)
- Norcross, Donald (D-NJ)
- Norton, Eleanor (D-DC)
- Payne Jr., Donald (D-NJ)
- Pascrell, William (D-NJ)
- Peters, Scott (D-CA)
- Rogers, Michael (R-AL)
- Sarbanes, John (D-MD)
- Schneider, Brad (D-IL)
- Schrier, Kim (D-WA)
- Simpson, Mike (R-ID)
- Smith, Adam (D-WA)
- Smith, Jason (R-MO)
- Stefanik, Elise (R-NY)
- Thompson, Mike (D-CA)
- Turner, Mike (R-OH)
- Williams, Roger (R-TX)
- Wittman, Robert (R-VA)

HOW TO DELIVER A POWERFUL MESSAGE IN A HILL MEETING

Your goal is to become a trusted resource for your Member of Congress and his or her staff, and to develop a strong supporter of Impact Aid.

PREPARING FOR THE MEETING

Use the **NAFIS website**, nafisd.org, to increase your familiarity with Impact Aid.

Do your homework by identifying your Member of Congress':

- Committee Membership
- Impact Aid Coalition Membership
- Recent local newspaper articles
- Recent press releases
- Policy interests
- Space on the political spectrum

Prepare an example of how Impact Aid is important for your school district.

Develop your message using the [NAFIS Talking Points](#) and [Elevator Pitch Worksheet](#).

Identify a group leader and plan what each participant will contribute and when.

Plan to use video, if virtual, even if the person you're meeting with is only on audio.

DURING THE MEETING

Be bipartisan and stay positive.

Share your stories and connect them to the interests of your Member of Congress. Be yourself and bring your passion.

Be helpful and offer to get back to the Member of Congress if you don't have the answer to a question.

Make your ask, using the [NAFIS Talking Points](#) to tell your legislator what you want them to do.

- Tailor to the Member of Congress' role
- Tailor to your expertise

Take time to listen and give your Member of Congress and their staff the opportunity to respond.

- Ask, "How can we help you?"
- Ask, "What is your boss' position?"

AFTER THE MEETING

Follow up on any promises made - unanswered questions, statistics, resources, etc.

Foster the relationship with regular contact

- Set calendar reminders to contact your policymakers at least once every quarter
- Share school district news and other successes with your Members of Congress
- Make sure you're following your Members of Congress on social media

Use Twitter to thank your Congressperson - use the [NAFIS Sample Tweets](#) for ideas - or share a brief article on your district website. Be sure to send it to them!

Send a "Thank You" email

- Let the person you met with know you appreciate their time and support
- Reiterate any talking points if necessary
- If the Member of Congress is not on the Impact Aid Coalition, remind them to join by sending an email to nicole@nafisd.org
 - Check to see if they're on the coalition:
 - [House of Representatives Coalition](#)
 - [Senate Coalition](#)
- Invite them to visit your school district

Remember, advocacy is a long-term process - the meeting is only the first step!



Questions?