

*July 31, 2018*

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### **FY2019 Budget**

The Senate plans to debate and vote on the two largest spending bills, FY2019 Defense and Labor-HHS appropriations bills. The Labor-HHS appropriations bill ([S. 3158](#)) includes funding for Hispanic-Serving Institutions and higher education in general.

Below are the proposed funding levels for the U.S. Department of Education Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) programs in the Senate bill:

- **HEA Title V-Part A:** The Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic student.
  - Compared to FY2018 funding, the bill will increase funding by \$2,715,000 (or 2.2%). The new total is \$125,898,000.
- **HEA Title V-Part B:** The Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) Program provides grants to: (1) expand postbaccalaureate educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of, Hispanic students; and (2) expand the postbaccalaureate academic offerings as well as enhance the program quality in the institutions of higher education that are educating the majority of Hispanic college students and helping large numbers of Hispanic and low-income students complete postsecondary degrees.

- Compared to FY2018 funding, the bill will increase funding by \$244,000 (or 2.2%). The new total is \$11,296,000.

The House of Representatives reported their Labor-HHS appropriations bill ([H.R. 6470](#)) out of committee by a party line vote of 30-22, but it has not been scheduled for debate and a vote on the House floor. HACU will continue to monitor the FY2019 Appropriations process as it continues.

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### **House Democrats introduce reauthorization of the Higher Education Act**

Seventeen Democrats on the House Education and the Workforce Committee introduced the "Aim Higher Act" to reauthorize the Higher Education Act (HEA); action on the Republican HEA reauthorization (H.R. 4508, the "PROSPER Act") has stalled since the Committee marked it up last year.

The Aim Higher Act is "designed to give every student the opportunity to earn a debt-free degree or credential that leads to a rewarding career." It improves access to postsecondary education by authorizing new programs to help build state capacity, expanding access to federal student aid, simplifying financial aid application requirements, and strengthening institutional accountability. It makes college more affordable by reviving Perkins loans, eliminating origination fees on student loans, and expanding Pell grants by increasing the maximum Pell grant by \$500, indexing it to inflation, making most of the program mandatory. It also allows Pell grants to pay for short-term high-quality training programs, a proposal from the President's budget, and includes provisions to increase college completion.

The Democratic Committee has a detailed summary and fact sheet available [here](#). The bill text has not been made available yet.

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### **Congress reauthorizes the Perkins Career and Technical Education Law**

On July 25, Congress passed a bipartisan overhaul of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act ([H.R. 2353](#)) and sent it for signature to the President. The \$1.1 billion program, last reauthorized in 2006, provides funding for job training and related programs for high school students who may be seeking postsecondary options other than a four-year college degree, as well as for students in higher education.

Some highlights of the bill include:

- The Secretary of Education would be barred from dictating states' CTE assessments or standards. States would also set their own goals under the legislation.
- States would have to make "meaningful progress" toward meeting their own goals.

- The legislation creates "core indicators" for the performance of students concentrating in CTE, including their graduation rate and the percentage who continue to either postsecondary education or advanced training within a certain time frame.
  - It also requires schools to align career and technical education programs with the needs of the state or local communities.
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### **DREAMer/DACA Update**

Last month, Speaker Paul Ryan (R-OH) put an end to the [discharge petition](#) by scheduling the Rep. Goodlatte immigration bill for a vote. The Goodlatte and the GOP "compromise" bill both failed to pass the House of Representatives.

It's still not clear whether Republicans, frustrated by this outcome, will return to the idea of using a discharge petition to force votes on bipartisan immigration bills. If they do, they'd have to start from scratch and collect 218 signatures - an effort that would likely be much more difficult now after a discouraging bout of immigration negotiations. For now, the millions of DREAMers remain in legal limbo. HACU will continue to pressure Congress to pass a clean DREAM Act. If you have not done so already, please contact your members of Congress by clicking [here](#).

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**In case you missed this:**

### **Community Resource Center (CRC) for DACA/DREAMers and HSIs**

HACU has developed an online portal in collaboration with the "Act on the Dream" Coalition that includes more than 35 national higher education organizations and immigration stakeholders. [More>>](#) Click [here](#) to explore the resources on the CRC.

*Forward this Washington Update to a colleague or friend. Encourage them to [sign-up](#) and join the [Advocacy Center](#) to lend their voice of support for HSIs and Latino students.*