

**From:** AACC Office of Government Relations  
**Date sent:** 05/26/2017 12:05:34 pm  
**Subject:** AACC Washington Watch

[Print This](#)

**Government Relations and Policy Analysis**

[View this email online or in your mobile browser.](#)



## Washington Watch

### AACC's Federal Policy Update



[AACC Website](#) | [Advocacy](#) | [Resources](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Follow Us:



May 26, 2017

The Trump Administration unveiled its FY 2018 federal budget request on May 23. The proposed budget is the president's first full budget request, following a spending outline that was released in March. The president's budget includes deep cuts to federal education, job training, and other community college priority programs. The House and Senate are expected to develop their respective budget bills as well as individual appropriations bills for FY 2018. The final appropriations legislation for FY 2018 is expected to differ greatly from what has been presented. AACC continues to advocate for federal investments in student aid and other key programs. For more information, visit the [AACC website](#).

#### Join AACC on Capitol Hill

Now is the time to make your voice heard on Capitol Hill. AACC is hosting a new 2-day public policy and advocacy event, [Advocates in Action](#), in Washington, DC, June 12–13. The program is designed to strengthen your Hill relationships. Together we will advance the national community college agenda at a critical time for our colleges and students. Participate in interactive sessions with senior congressional staff and executive branch officials. [Register now](#).

#### College Transparency Act Introduced

On May 15, Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced legislation to lift the ban on student unit records. This bill would authorize the creation of a new, secure postsecondary student data system. The legislation is [supported by AACC](#).

and numerous organizations, including [the Brookings Institution](#). The [Senate bill](#) has a companion bill in the House, [H.R. 2434](#).

### Pell Grant Preservation and Expansion Act

On May 16, U.S. Representatives Susan Davis (D-CA) and Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) announced the introduction of legislation to ensure the sustained and expanded funding of the Pell Grant program. Included in the bill are provisions that would index to inflation annual increases in the Pell Grant maximum award, increase the Pell Grant lifetime eligibility to 14 semesters, restore access for incarcerated students, and extend Pell eligibility to high-quality, short-term job training programs. The bill sponsors released [a fact sheet](#) and [bill text](#). The legislation faces an uphill battle for bipartisan consideration. For more about the legislation, see the [CC Daily article](#).

### Perkins Career and Technical Education Legislation Advances

On May 17, the House Committee on Education and the Workforce approved unanimously a [bipartisan bill](#) to reauthorize the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, H.R. 2353, is similar to legislation approved by the House last fall. For more, see the [CC Daily article](#).

### Legislation Introduced to Support the Nursing Profession

Coinciding with National Nurses Week, Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), whose wife is a registered nurse, sponsored two bipartisan bills in support of the nursing profession. [The Nursing Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2017](#), S. 1109, would amend Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to, among other things, extend advanced education nursing grants to support clinical nurse specialist programs. [The National Nurse Act of 2017](#), S. 1106, would designate the same individual serving as the chief nurse officer of the U.S. Public Health Service as the national nurse for public health, thus elevating the role of nurses in the public health.

### Federal Agency News & Resources

**CCAMPIS Grant Competition Announced**—The U.S. Department of Education (ED) published a notice in the [Federal Register](#) on May 23 inviting applications for new awards for FY 2017 for the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program. The CCAMPIS program provides critical funding to support campus-based child care services for low-income college students. Colleges that currently have CCAMPIS grants that expire in FY 2017 or FY 2018 are eligible to apply along with other colleges that have awarded a total of \$350,000 or more in Federal Pell Grants during FY 2016. ED does not anticipate a competition next year since its FY 2018 budget request zeros out funding for CCAMPIS.

**The Condition of Education 2017**—ED announced the publication of [The 2017 Condition of Education](#), a congressionally-mandated annual report that summarizes trends in U.S. education and includes indicators about various pre-K through higher education topics.

### Policy Related Reports

**Role of State Funding for Higher Education**—The Urban Institute issued [a report](#) about the role of state funding and how it relates to federal spending on higher education. This report examines the variation across states in support for higher education, including per-student funding, needs-based and non-needs-based grant aid, and funding levels by sector. It also looks at how state funding policies relate to federal funding and how they support or detract from federal policy goals.

**Student Financial Aid, Never More Important**—The release of this American Academy of Arts & Sciences [Undergraduate Financial Aid in the United States](#) report is particularly timely. The report, which was prepared for the Academy's Commission on the Future of Undergraduate Education, not only addresses the major themes and challenges of financial aid, such as the unintended consequences of the

“Bennett Hypothesis,” but also offers key takeaways. While financial aid is intended to maximize access to higher education, the report concludes emphatically that “if students can afford college but do not have the academic and structural support they need to succeed, the impact of aid is substantially diminished. Thus, the effectiveness of financial aid policies is not just central to, but inherently intertwined with, the effectiveness of undergraduate education as a whole.”

**Call for Comprehensive Reform to Achieve Student Success**—Community college students, in particular, face many challenges to completing their education. They are disproportionately low income, and underprepared for postsecondary work and experience other barriers, such as being first-generation college goers and needing to work while attending college, often caring for dependents. Acknowledging that community colleges have made many reform efforts, the author of an [Educause Review article](#) says they have traditionally been too limited and instead calls for more comprehensive reform. Examples of comprehensive reform are the guided pathways and the Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) models. What these have in common are “a focus on measurable student success, an intentional and cohesive package of programmatic components, and a culture of evidence.”

**Another Term of Declines in Enrollment**—The [Spring Enrollment report](#) of the National Student Clearinghouse shows that college enrollment continues to decline, driven mostly by losses in for-profit institutions and, to a lesser extent, to enrollments in public 2-year colleges. See [CC Daily](#) for a more detailed description.

### **Interested in Reading Back Issues of the Washington Watch?**

Visit the [AACC website](#).

### **The AACC Government Relations and Policy Analysis Team:**

Senior Vice President: [David Baime](#), ext. 224

Associate Vice President: [Jim Hermes](#), ext. 216

Legislative Resource Associate: [Laurie Quarles](#), ext. 249

Director, Policy Analysis: [Jolanta \(J.J.\) Juskiewicz](#), ext. 258

American Association of Community Colleges  
One Dupont Circle, NW | Suite 410 | Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 728-0200 | [www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu)