

# Policy Issues Congressional Members May Raise During Hill Visits



Special  
Education  
Legislative  
Summit  2018  
Alexandria, VA | July 8-11, 2018



Council for  
Exceptional  
Children



# IDEA REAUTHORIZATION

## BACKGROUND

- ❖ IDEA was due to be reauthorized in 2010.
- ❖ Many other bills in line for reauthorization before IDEA.
- ❖ Due to political climate CEC and many other groups are not recommending IDEA Reauthorization.
- ❖ Too much to lose than to gain.
- ❖ CEC IDEA Reauthorization Work Group has developed Principles and Recommendations for when the time is right! CEC Proactive vs Reactive!

## HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ Share IDEA Informational Brief – IDEA Core Purposes remain a priority.



# HEA REAUTHORIZATION

## BACKGROUND

- ❖ HEA is up for reauthorization
- ❖ CEC has Issue Briefs with proactive recommendations that include many HEA provisions such as:
  - Teach Grant Program
  - Teacher Quality Partnerships Grant Program
  - Loan Forgiveness Programs

## HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ CEC opposes H.R.4508, PROSPER Act – passed by House Education and Workforce Committee – may go to full House for a vote soon???



# SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH



## BACKGROUND

- ❖ Some “TALK” among Administration and some members of Congress that school safety issues are a result of children and youth with disabilities with mental health issues.
- ❖ Some policymakers are recommending arming teachers with guns in schools to create a safer environment.

## HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ Mental health is “NOT ONLY” a disability issue. Potentially includes ALL children and youth.
- ❖ CEC opposes the arming of teachers and other personnel in schools.
- ❖ CEC believes the possession of a firearm in schools should be limited to carefully selected, specially trained school resource officers.



# SEPARATION OF IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



## BACKGROUND

- ❖ CEC acknowledges the stand many have taken against the inappropriate treatment of children who have been recently retained at the U.S. – Mexico border.
- ❖ Immigration issues not directly in CEC's area of policy purview.

## HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ The Administration's zero tolerance immigration policy is in direct opposition to CEC's core values concerning the treatment of families and children.
- ❖ CEC's core values call for ethical, transparent public policies that ensure commitment to caring and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals.



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND LABOR MERGE?

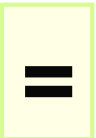
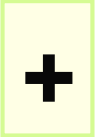
## BACKGROUND

- ❖ President Trump's plan to "drain the swamp" –
  - Shrink the federal government – control Washington bureaucracy.
- ❖ Mick Mulvaney – OMB Director – Architect of the Plan.
- ❖ Four Major Subdivisions:
  - K-12 education
  - Workforce and higher education (including federal student aid programs)
  - Enforcement of labor and civil rights laws
  - Research
- ❖ Congress must approve – heavy lift!
  - Congress not likely to approve – Give up their appropriation seats!



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND LABOR MERGE?

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE : DEW



Secretary of Education: Betsy DeVos

Secretary of Labor: Alexander Acosta

Credit: Late Show with Stephen Colbert



# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND LABOR MERGE?

Special  
Education  
Legislative  
Summit **2018**  
Alexandria, VA | July 8-11, 2018



## HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ CEC opposes the merging of the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Labor.





# SIGNIFICANT DISPROPORTIONALITY REGULATIONS

## BACKGROUND



### FEDERAL REGISTER

The Daily Journal of the United States Government

#### Federal Rule on Significant Disproportionality

- ❖ The U.S. Department of Education postpones by two years the date for States to comply with the “Equity in IDEA” or “significant disproportionality” regulations, from July 1, 2018 to July 1, 2020.
- ❖ Also postpones the date for including children ages three through five in the analysis of significant disproportionality from July 1, 2020 to July 1, 2022.
- ❖ Statutory requirements still exist!

## HILL TALKING POINT

- ❖ CEC opposes the two year postponement of the disproportionality regulations.

