TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
        Lynne Haefele Curry, Director

Agenda Topic: Discussion Item – Federal Legislative Status Report


Staff Contact(s): Peter Leonis and Randy Burge

Purpose of Agenda Item
To apprise the members of the State Board of Education on current legislation before Congress, and discuss related federal education issues and funding.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item
The Board will be informed about the agency's Governmental Affairs federal activities.

Background Information
Governmental Affairs staff continues to monitor activity in Congress regarding the FY2003 Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill through almost daily discussions with Scott Barnhart, BGR.

Congress is expected to return on November 12th for a lame duck session. At this point it is too soon to tell if they will be able to reach agreement on the FY 03 budget or if another continuing resolution will be passed to take the discussions into the 108th Congress.

The Homeland Security bill and the FY 03 budget are expected to take up much of the lame duck session. No other major education related issues are expected to occur during the lame duck session.

Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action and Communications

Budget Implications
The FY03 federal appropriations bill has implications for upcoming budget and agency action:

- Standard appropriations (e.g., for NCLB Title I, etc.) this fall have implications in the budgeting process and supporting agency and school initiatives;
- Agency grant applications or school direct grant applications during 2002-03
Communication
Governmental Affairs’ Federal Liaison will continue to communicate with the Illinois Congressional Delegation regarding FY03 earmark requests.

Superintendent’s Recommendation
No formal action is needed at this time.

Next Steps
Work with the Illinois Congressional Delegation and BGR to secure as much federal funding as possible.
Congress Returns for Lame-Duck Session

On October 16, both the House and the Senate passed the fourth FY03 continuing resolution, H.J. Res. 123, which extends appropriations at FY2002 levels through November 22. While the current fiscal year officially ended on the first of October, Congress has passed only the defense appropriations bill and the military construction spending bill. Both chambers reconvened November 12, 2002 for a brief “lame-duck session”.

Republican leaders in Congress moved late on November 12th to put off difficult spending decisions until next year, when they will have control of both houses. Lawmakers and top aides said they expected the House to consider as early as Wednesday a resolution to finance federal agencies at current levels through Jan. 11 rather than try to resolve an impasse that has left the appropriations process in tatters.

Though Republicans have won majorities in both houses for the session that begins in January, they are not yet in control of the Senate. Democrats remain temporarily in charge there because Dean Barkley, an independent sworn in today as an interim senator from Minnesota, has decided to remain unaligned with either party. He will be succeeded in January by a Republican, Norm Coleman.

Because of disputes over spending levels, Congress has cleared only 2 of the 13 appropriations bills for the fiscal year that began on Oct. 1, both of them dealing with the military. Since then, federal agencies have been operating under a series of temporary resolutions. The latest is to expire on Nov. 22.

Members of the appropriations committees had hoped to use the lame-duck session to pass at least a few of the spending measures. They were overruled by Republican leaders, who would prefer to wrap up the session in a matter of days and wait to confront the spending fight when they are firmly in control.

2002 Election Results

Newly Elected Chiefs
Arizona, Tom Horn (R)
California, Jack O'Connell (D)
Georgia, Kathy Cox (R)
Idaho, Marilyn Howard (D)
Oklahoma, Sandy Garrett (D)
South Carolina, Inez Tenenbaum (D)
Wyoming, Trent Blankenship (R)
Key Ballot Measures in Education
Arizona: Lottery money for Education PASSED
California 49: Before- and After-School Care PASSED
Colorado Amendment 31: English-Language Education DEFEATED
Florida Amendment 9: Class Size Reduction PASSED
Florida: State Funded Preschool PASSED
Idaho: Lottery money for Education PASSED
Massachusetts: Ban on Bilingual Education PASSED
Missouri: Tobacco tax increase- portion of revenues dedicated to education FAILED
Tennessee: Lottery money for Education PASSED
Utah: Storage of radioactive waste--80% of revenues to education PASSED

Budget Projections
A summary of the President's budget proposal can be found on the USDE website at: http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/Budget03/Summary/SectionII/A.html. It gives a good overview of each program as well as recent history of federal appropriation for education.

The impact of the President's FY03 budget request on Illinois can be found at another USDE website at: http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/Budget03/03StateTables/index.html. By clicking on "State Tables by State" you can go to the Illinois page. This will give you the estimated amounts Illinois will receive if the President's budget proposal is adopted by Congress as the FY 03 appropriations (not likely!).

USDE News
The theme of American Education Week (November 17-23), "Making Public Schools Great for Every Child," reflects the cooperation and hard work of all education staff, parents, community members, and businesses who help students achieve. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://www.nea.org/aew/.

International Education Week (November 18-22), a joint effort by the Departments of Education and State, affirms that education is a common value -- a positive path that can lead to a more secure future for all citizens. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://exchanges.state.gov/iew/.

On December 12, in Philadelphia, the White House and the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Labor are hosting a conference to help faith-based and community organizations learn more about President Bush's Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The federal government is committed to helping these groups compete on an equal footing for federal dollars, receive greater private support, and face fewer bureaucratic barriers. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://www.fbci.gov.