

Monthly Policy Report



Prepared For

NCDAA

National Career
Development
Association

Prepared by

Lobbyit.com

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NCDA Federal Policy Update

Work in Congress:

February and March were examples of the complicated legislative and political framework that the 118th Congress faces going into a critical stretch. A proposed supplemental funding bill of \$66.3 billion, led by Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Jared Golden (D-ME).

In another significant development, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was the latest in a string of announced departures. This announcement has sparked speculation about his successor and the party's future course.

With all of this happening in the background, Lobbyit has been busy working on the Hill to ensure awareness of NCDA policy priorities and are positioned for this key stretch on the Hill and the coming fly-in event. In March we met with the following:

- Rep. DeSaulnier: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Doris Matsui: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Mace: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Braun: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Owens: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Williams: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Thompson: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Omar: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Wild: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. McBath: Workforce, Career Development
- Rep. Comer: Workforce, Career Development
- Senate HELP: Workforce, Career Development

Policy Update

From these meetings, we we learned much about the House passed WIOA legislation and the path forward in the Senate.

We have laid out the highlights of the House bill below, however in the Senate, Ranking Member Sen. Bill Cassidy and Chairman Sen. Bernie Sanders remain far apart on moving similar legislation in the Senate.

The main sticking point as of now revolves around “wrap around” services, which refer to not educational entitlement programs like funding for day care, transportation, and groceries that Senator Sanders would like to see added to the wiOA program.

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Policy Update

WIOA Update from the House

The House Education and the Workforce Committee passed a bill to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The bill would make changes to the program, including directing more funding to training, reforming eligibility criteria for providers, and strengthening accountability.

A bipartisan working group in the House is aiming to introduce a framework for paid leave legislation as early as this month. The Senate working group is also working on a framework. The goal of the legislation is to increase access to paid leave and to create federal standards.

There are challenges to passing both the workforce development and paid leave legislation. Lawmakers will have a tight schedule in 2024 because of the election cycle, and there are many other important bills that need to be passed. Additionally, lawmakers will need to compromise in order to get bills that can pass both chambers of Congress.

Despite the challenges, there is some optimism that progress can be made on both issues. The fact that there is bipartisan support for both bills is a good sign. Additionally, the makeup of the working groups suggests that they may be able to craft substantial policy.

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Policy Update

FY2024 Budget & Supplemental Update

The FY24 Budget & Supplemental Update encapsulates a significant phase in U.S. government funding, marked by the successful navigation through a complex and contentious negotiation process, culminating in President Joe Biden signing a \$1.2 trillion spending package. This legislative milestone averted a potential government shutdown, reflecting a high-stakes compromise amidst diverse political dynamics and the challenge of balancing various congressional demands. Despite initial opposition from House conservatives advocating for significant cuts, the final legislation achieved a bipartisan agreement that maintained essential funding levels for the Pentagon and various non-defense agencies through September, including a 3 percent increase in defense spending.

This budget agreement represents a critical effort to ensure the continuity of government operations and addresses key priorities such as education, immigration enforcement, and health research. It emerged in a political landscape characterized by evolving leadership and ongoing negotiations, underscoring the importance of cooperation and compromise in fiscal governance. The resolution of this funding cycle, amidst strategic use of continuing resolutions and adjustments to spending priorities, highlights the complexities of the U.S. budgetary process and sets a foundation for future fiscal negotiations in a dynamically changing political environment.

Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA - \$26.3 billion

Commerce, Justice, Science - \$66.5 billion

Energy and Water Development - \$58.2 billion

Interior and Environment - \$42.0 billion

Military Construction-Veterans Affairs - \$153.9 billion

Transportation-Housing and Urban Development - \$176.9 billion

In line with our commitment to providing timely and comprehensive insights, Lobbyit will be issuing a report on the FY24 budget in the forthcoming weeks. This report will offer in-depth analysis and perspectives on the implications of the recent budgetary developments.

Dec Legislative Review

Labor

The Labor Department would get \$13.7 billion in discretionary funding.

That figure includes \$10.4 billion for the Employment and Training Administration, a decrease of \$28 million compared to fiscal 2023.

The bill includes \$2.9 billion for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act State Grants, equal to fiscal year 2023; \$115 million for the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders, equal to fiscal year 2023 and \$285 million for Registered Apprenticeships, equal to fiscal year 2023.

It includes \$65 million for strengthening community college training grants, which provide training to workers in in-demand industries at community colleges and four-year partners; \$1.8 billion for Job Corps and \$405 million for the Senior Community Service Employment for Older Americans Program. All three programs received equal funding to fiscal 2023.

The bill also preserved fiscal 2023 levels for worker protection agencies, providing \$1.9 billion for those agencies, which include Wage and Hour Division, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and the Employee Benefits Security Administration, with OSHA receiving level funding of \$632 million.

The bill also includes \$299 million for the National Labor Relations Board, equal to fiscal year 2023.