

## NSBA Update on K-12 Federal Budget

NSBA greatly appreciates your grassroots outreach to your senators last week, as the Senate was debating its version of an FY2014 budget. Early Saturday morning, the Senate passed the budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 8, by a [vote of 50 to 49](#). More than 500 amendments to the measure were filed, many of which did not receive a vote. Reportedly, 101 amendments were considered.

Although sequestration will occur this fiscal year, the Senate budget resolution proposes to stop the sequester in FY2014 and also provide \$100 billion for infrastructure improvements and job creation, including "\$20 billion to jump-start repairs and technology infrastructure investments in schools across America that are crumbling or lack critical educational tools like broadband access that are required in the 21st century economy."

Of the amendments we noted last week, Amendment No. 515, [sponsored by Senators Lamar Alexander \(R-TN\) and Rand Paul \(R-KY\)](#), was rejected by a [vote of 39-60](#). This amendment proposed to change Title I grants into a choice and voucher program.

The amendment to increase special education funding through FY2023, sponsored by [Senator Pat Roberts](#) (R-KS), was not considered. Likewise, the voucher related amendments sponsored by Senators [Ted Cruz](#) (R-TX) and [Marco Rubio](#) (R-FL) were not considered.

The Senate agreed by voice vote to Amendment No. 267, sponsored by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), to establish an Office of Rural Education Policy within the Department of Education, which could include a clearinghouse for information related to the challenges of rural schools and districts or for providing technical assistance within the Department of Education on rules and regulations that impact rural schools and districts.

Additionally, the Senate agreed to Amendment No. 521, sponsored by [Senator Mike Lee](#) (R-UT), to support the reauthorization of the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program at levels roughly equivalent to property tax revenues lost due to the presence of federal land, as some of these funds go to school districts in more than 1,900 counties in 49 states and territories.

Just before the Senate passed its budget resolution, Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) stated that, "...The work is far from complete. I am going to be working with Chairman Ryan in the House, and anyone else who is interested in coming together, to make some compromises, and get to the balanced and bipartisan deal the American people expect and deserve."

The next step is to reconcile S. Con. Res. 8 with the House-passed budget resolution, which proposes to reduce federal expenditures by \$4.6 trillion over the next 10 years. Sponsored by Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI), the House budget suggests streamlining K-12 programs and would cut non-defense discretionary programs, which includes education, by \$55 billion below the sequester level in FY2014.

NSBA will continue to influence the FY2014 budget debate, working to champion proposals that are favorable to K-12 programs, as well as early education.

NSBA Position: As the federal budget is realigned to meet deficit reduction goals, NSBA urges targeted investments in public education that will leverage increased economic growth and productivity that will strengthen American competitiveness in the global economy and ultimately help reduce the national debt. NSBA urges Congress and the Executive Branch to appropriate and administer accelerating investments in public education that support local efforts to continue raising student achievement. Further, NSBA continues to urge Congress to fully fund Title I and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at their statutorily authorized levels.

Sincerely, Kathleen Branch & NSBA's Advocacy Team

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