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THE HILL REPORT



NCDA | National Career
Development
Association

Monthly Report

In October, the White House and Capitol Hill focused most of their attention on education and trade policy reforms, government funding levels, and the impeachment inquiry. Regarding trade policy announcements, President Trump outlined in early October a "Phase One" deal with China that would pause the trade war and suspend planned future tariff increases in the U.S. The deal hinges on China significantly increasing purchases of U.S. agricultural commodities and agreeing to implement certain intellectual-property measures, and concessions related to financial services and currency, in exchange for the U.S. delaying tariff increases. Notably, the agreement did not reverse U.S. tariffs announced in August and scheduled for December. The agreement marks the largest breakthrough in the 18-month trade war that has hurt the economies of both nations.

In other trade policy news, the price of Scotch, French wine, cheese, and other European exports is about to go up in the U.S. after the Trump administration announced new tariffs on billions of dollars of EU products starting Oct. 18. Ceramic

tile was not on the list of products receiving tariffs. President Donald Trump received the go-ahead from the World Trade Organization to impose tariffs on as much as \$7.5 billion worth of European exports annually in retaliation for illegal government aid to Airbus. The award is the largest in WTO history.

On October 15th, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Education and Labor released legislative text reauthorizing and reforming the Higher Education Act (HEA), the main congressional vehicle for authorizing programs like Pell Grants and Federal Work-Study programs. Democrats have thus far honed their reforms efforts to making federal student loan and aid programs cheaper, simpler, and easier to navigate; holding institutions of higher education accountable for campus violence; and policy that would make two-year colleges tuition-free in the U.S. While there is some bipartisan support on these issues, Republicans worry the legislation could actually increase the total cost of tuition due to the regulatory burden associated with the reforms.

House Democrats held a historic vote in October, voting in favor of moving to a public phase of the impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump. The vote, largely symbolic, increases the chances that the House will vote to impeach President Trump before the end of the year. After weeks of closed-door testimony, Democrats and Republicans head into open hearings before the House Intelligence Community to examine the President's actions concerning his July 25th phone call with President Zelensky of Ukraine. The hearings are where Democrats intend to layout for voters a case that they say shows Trump abused his powers by trying to pressure the government of Ukraine to deliver a political favor by digging up dirt on a political rival. The president has derided the "impeachment hoax" that he says is propelled by Democratic attempts to destroy the Republican Party. He has said he did nothing improper in his interactions with Ukraine's president. Although the Republican majority in the Senate isn't likely to vote to remove Trump from office, the investigation comes as the president prepares to seek re-election next year with approval ratings hovering in the low 40s.

During the month of October, the Lobbyit team continued outreach to determine House leadership's plans for workforce development over the coming months. We met with the lead staffer on workforce development for the House Committee on Education and Labor and discussed what they plan on doing in the near future. She indicated that they will be focusing on the *future of work* and holding hearings to explore what that looks like and how to best prepare the current and future workforce. They will also begin between now and the end of the year regarding the reauthorization of WIOA and she welcomed input and feedback on recommendations. Both of these issues are opportunities for NCDA to emphasize the importance of career development professionals being involved and prominent in the process.

We also worked with the NCDA Government Relations Committee and coordinated with Hill staff to provide feedback on the career counselor bill that we were informed about during the September fly-in. We made several key recommendations that lined up with the goals of the bill but would also reflect the priorities of the association. The bill

is expected to be released in November.

We will continue to engage and work to promote this bill upon release and over the coming months.

Until next month,

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