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Development
Association

Congress Update

The summer recess is over, and the full Congress is coming back to DC with two things on its to-do list: keep the government open and find a deal for another stimulus package. One of those two things will be easier than the other.

Federal spending authority expires on the last day of the month with the end of the fiscal year. The Administration and the House Democrats have already announced that they plan on reaching a deal for a "clean" continuing resolution (CR) - which would keep the same level of funding across the board. This reflects the fact that neither side wants to have a government shutdown, especially this close to an election. As of right now, negotiations are ongoing as to how long the CR will last with some pushing for it to expire in December before the holidays and others wanting it to go until past the inauguration. We should know more soon.

Unfortunately, there is not a clear path forward on stimulus negotiations. Both sides are at a stalemate with negotiations having broken down and neither side engaging the other in serious talks for weeks. The "skinny bill" that the Senate GOP attempted to pass failed because Democrats did not believe it to be sufficient - it included less than \$500B in funding, far less than the \$2T that Democrats are asking for. However, there is growing pressure among moderate Democrats for the House to pass smaller, issue-specific bills that will increase pressure on the Senate. Speaker Pelosi is strongly opposed to a piecemeal approach and has resisted this strategy so far, however that could change as we approach the end of the month. Many Democrats do not want to

leave Washington in October and campaign with the HEROES Act being so far in the rear-view mirror that many voters may have forgotten about it.

Ultimately, with every week that goes by without a deal, the chances diminish that a bill will reach the President's desk before Congress leaves town until after the election. Over the next few weeks Congress will receive a barrage of messaging from constituents who are desperate for assistance and whose organizations are unlikely to survive the fall without more funds

Advocacy Activities

In the month of August, our team continued to urge Congress to pass another round of stimulus funding. In our advocacy we continue to push for expanding PPP to allow especially hard-hit organizations to have access to a second round of funding. We met with offices in the House and Senate and continued to build support. The Senate released a "skinny" stimulus package that includes our request.

We also continued our work on the Pandemic Risk Insurance Act, assisting the sponsoring office in organizing a September roundtable to discuss the bill, raise its profile on the Hill, and gather additional support.

On the workforce development front, we took a meeting with the new congressional staffer for CTE-champion and cosponsor of the Counseling for Career Choice Act, Representative Langevin. The former staffer left earlier this year before COVID took over and we were finally able to find a time to connect, introduce NCDA to her, and begin discussions for 2021 priorities.

Until next month,

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Lobbyit.com | 1425 K Street, NW | Suite 350 | Washington, DC 20005 | Phone: 202.587.2736 | Fax: 202.747.2727
info@lobbyit.com | lobbyit.com

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Lobbyit.com, 1425 K Street, NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20005

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