



## THE HILL REPORT



### CONGRESSIONAL UPDATE

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The last several weeks have been a fever pitch of news. If you have been following things closely, you'd be forgiven for feeling as if you'd experienced whiplash from all the breaking news. It was less than a month ago that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died, triggering a bitter fight to replace her that will hit the main stage next week as Senate Judiciary begins confirmation hearings for Judge Amy Coney Barrett. It was only a couple weeks ago that the New York Times broke the bombshell news that they have gotten access to a President Trump's tax returns which will periodically seize the headlines for weeks as they reveal what they've found. Finally, the presidential race experienced the ultimate "October surprise" when the President announced that he was infected with COVID-19 and spent a weekend in the hospital. Now we hold our breath because October has three weeks left and who knows what each new day can bring.

The backdrop to these events has been the ongoing negotiations between the Administration and the Democrats on a new round of stimulus funding. Since the House passed the HEROES Act months ago the President has not shown much interest in being involved in the negotiations. The negotiations were at a stalemate until in late September, Speaker Pelosi heeded the calls from some of her moderate Members and instructed her team to put together a "slimmed down" version of the HEROES Act, which resulted in a \$2.2T bill – HEROES 2.0. This represented her negotiating position that the Democrats

would be willing to come down \$1T if the Administration came up \$1T from their original offer. Since then it has truly been a rollercoaster ride but in apparent recognition of the need to change the narrative and combat his slipping in the polls, President Trump instructed his negotiating team to try and meet the Democrats' offer and the Administration is responding with a \$1.8T proposal.

If a deal is reached at this point in the calendar, it would not reach the President's desk before the election. However, a hurdle remains in the Republican-controlled Senate. Leader McConnell has not indicated that he is willing to pass such a large stimulus bill and it would require a lot of political capital from President Trump to get it through, especially since the Senate Leader has clearly stated that confirming Judge Barrett is his priority and that there aren't enough Republican votes for a multi-trillion dollar package. However, this is progress and we have successfully secured some of our priorities in HEROES 2.0 and are urging Congress to reach a deal and get help out the door as soon as possible.

## **NCDA ADVOCACY UPDATE**

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The month of September brought continued negotiations on the next stimulus package. As we noted earlier, these have not yielded a result yet. However, our advocacy has yielded successful results in the stimulus package that House Democrats passed. The \$2.2T bill represents the slimmed down version of the Democrats priorities. We succeeded in getting c6 expansion for PPP and second round access to PPP for organizations that have experienced a quarterly drop in revenue of 25% year-over-year.



We continue to urge Congress to pass additional stimulus to help individuals and provide enough funding to state and local governments to ensure that more educators and local employees do not lose their jobs. We are also looking ahead at 2021 and are working with Congress to host a virtual event to highlight the Counseling for Career Choice Act when it gets reintroduced in the next congressional session. We anticipate partnering with a couple of sister organizations to bring additional publicity to the bill.

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