



## **What's Happening in Washington**

The 118<sup>th</sup> Congress kicked off in anything but typical fashion. A cohort of 20 House Republicans upheld a relatively routine vote for Speaker of the House to express their discontent with the party selection of Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA-20). After 15 rounds of gridlocked voting, Rep. McCarthy's team eventually secured enough votes for him to become the next Speaker.

The House GOP Leader has struck major concessions to placate the Republican conference and it underscores how delicate the party will have to move forward in a divided government. Some publicly listed concessions include:

- The threshold for a motion to vacate would be five members, then a simple majority vote to pass. If triggered it would need Republican support to pass.
- A new rule that says an attempt to raise the debt ceiling must also include spending cuts.
- The formation of a select committee on "the weaponization of the federal government."
- Individual votes on 12 appropriation bills versus one large omnibus spending bill.
- Reinstating the Holman rule, which permits lawmakers to amend federal appropriations legislation and reduce the salary of government officials.
- A new rule giving lawmakers 72 hours to review bills before they come onto the floor.
- A verbal promise to bring forth GOP issues onto the floor such as border security and abortion.

After the delay in the House of Representatives, members voted on a proposed rules package which will govern the body and lowers the bar to oust the Speaker of the House. The package passed 220 to 213, with all Democrats and one Republican, Rep. Tony Gonzales of Texas, opposing the measure. The Texas Congressman listed his opposition was due to proposed cuts in defense spending.

Over the weekend, President Biden visited the U.S.-Mexican border and met with border patrol officials to discuss the efforts made to detain illegal migrants. President Biden's schedule also includes a trip to Mexico City to visit the Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The USMCA countries are set to discuss border security, trade, and solutions regarding ongoing supply chain bottlenecks and other macroeconomic headwinds.

## **January**

At the beginning of the year, Lobbyit held conversations with key Education and Labor staffers about the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Additionally, our team met with staff for Representative GT Thompson and Rep. Elise Stefanik to discuss NCDA's priorities and the legislative timeline. We highlighted the need to include career counseling funding via provisions in the Counseling for Career Choice Act (which Rep. Thompson sponsored), as well as rising priorities for NCDA such as intern pay.

## **February**



Negotiations continued on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), but at this time there was not enough context to outline changes to funding or relevant programs. For February, the Lobbyit team worked on solidifying our relationships with key staff and offices to ensure we are well positioned to advocate for programs benefitting membership.

### **America COMPETES/USICA**

The America COMPETES Act, the House's version of the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (which passed the Senate over the summer), passed nearly along party lines. The bill included most of the same provisions of the USICA, but also includes more progressive foreign policy, climate, and workforce development priorities. The Senate's USICA passed with much more significant bipartisan support than the America COMPETES Act.

Of particular interest to AWFS, the bill includes provisions of the National Apprenticeship Act. As a next step, the bill will go to a conference committee where the House and Senate will hash out their differences.

### **March**

On the last day of March, House Education and Labor Committee Democrats introduced the WIOA Reauthorization Act of 2022. This bill is not bipartisan. It included additional support for industry-sector partnerships and community college partnerships, among other priorities. We also learned that Senate HELP Committee leadership (who would need bipartisan consensus to move forward) were unable to reach an agreement on WIOA, so a path forward to full reauthorization was unclear for this month. Our team has engaged with several offices on Education and Labor on this, including Rep. GT Thompson, who will be introducing an amendment pushing for Title II funds to be used for certain recruitment outreach and social media initiatives. In addition to speaking with committee staff, we have also put a request out to Rep. Mark DeSaulnier, who has been supportive of our efforts in the past, to discuss. We will continue to keep AWFS updated as things progress on this front.

### **April**

In April, our team finalized travel plans for the NCDCA conference. We also recorded a virtual government affairs session in April alongside committee members, ACA, and Charles Lehman, the board liaison. We continued to report out to committee members on a weekly basis about what is happening on the Hill in general and as it relates to NCDCA.

### **May**

#### **Rep. Thompson Bill**

This month, NCDCA endorsed a bill from Rep. GT Thompson. The bill was set for introduction in early June, allotting Rep. Thompson's office time to find a Democratic co-lead for the bill. The bill would allow funds for Title II of WIOA to provide career guidance to individuals and to create public outreach through Public Service Announcements, social media campaigns, job fairs, etc. to spread the word on these workforce development programs. Title II already allows organizations such as trade associations



to receive funds from states to implement eligible programming, as long as they can “prove effectiveness” in their application.

### **Conference**

Our team also continued planning for NCDAs conference in Anaheim by crafting one-pagers.

### **June**

The Lobbyit team had a presence at NCDAs annual conference in Anaheim in June. In addition to leading a Government Affairs Committee meeting and a formal Government Relations session, where we updated members on what is happening on the Hill, our team appreciated the opportunity to engage with NCDAs leadership at events such as the Brain Trust brunch event to share our recent successes and goals for the coming year. We were able to hear directly from members about what challenges they’re facing on the ground related to WIOA and other programs, giving us additional talking points in our conversations with Congress. The conference also solidified our goal of doing an in-person Hill Day event in DC early next year.

### **July**

#### **Creating Opportunities to Thrive and Advance Act**

The COTA Act gained one additional cosponsor, Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV). At this time in July, there was not a clear path forward for the bill this Congress, but we continued to build support and anticipated momentum for the broader WIOA reauthorization early 2023.

We continued to push for additional cosponsors for this legislation. This month, our team met with Rep. Susanne Bonamici (D-OR), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee and a key voice for workforce development in Congress about the bill and the importance of career development.

### **August**

#### **Creating Opportunities to Thrive and Advance Act (HR 8195)**

This month, the COTA Act gained one additional cosponsor, Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV). We spent the August recess discussing potential priorities to advocate on in both bills (COTA & WIOA).

### **September Planning**

We also prepared for NCDAs leadership visit to DC in and prep surrounding the Legislative Award to Nick Rockwell, Legislative Director for Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA). We planned to set up Hill meetings with key stakeholders on the House Education and Labor Committee and Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. We also arranged meetings with the offices of Sen. Tim Kaine and Rep. Marionette Miller-Meeks (R-IA).

Our team also discussed an upcoming presentation to NCDAs board on September 15<sup>th</sup>; we began preparations to meet with the board and worked closely with the Government Relations Committee to develop their annual plan for the coming year.



## **September**

### **Hill Meetings**

This month, NCDAs Executive Director Deneen Pennington, President Sharon Givens, and Public Policy Committee Chair Diana Bailey joined our team on the Hill for several key meetings. Our first meeting was with the new labor staffer for Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), a key voice on career development issues, to discuss NCDAs policy priorities. We met directly next with Congressman GT Thompson, who sat down with us to discuss our shared efforts on the Counseling for Career Choice Act, COTA Act, and National Career Development Month Resolution, as well as his goals to elevate career development next Congress.

We also spoke with staff for Rep. Marionnette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), the Ranking Member of the House Education and Labor Committee's Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee. Her staff confirmed that they are focused in on a WIOA deal early next Congress.

### **September Board Meeting**

Our team presented to NCDAs board in September on initiatives we completed over the past year and on opportunities we see looking ahead to next year, especially related to WIOA and the Higher Education Act reauthorization.

## **October**

### **National Career Development Month**

Lobbyit reengaged staff in Representative Glenn "GT" Thompson's (PA-15) office to have the Congressman enter a bipartisan resolution to recognize National Career Development Month with a quote from NCDAs leadership. The Congressman's office agreed to introduce the resolution and is set for mid-November introduction in the House.

## **November**

### **Congressional Resolution**

Lobbyit arranged meetings with Rep. Thompson's office to rally support behind a reintroduction of H. Res. 1462, Expressing support for designating November 2022 as "National Career Development Month". The resolution is awaiting a final vote but so far has eight co-sponsors: an increase from last year's resolution.

## **December**

### **Omnibus**

Congress passed the omnibus in December which funds the government through 2023. Some provisions of interest include: \$65,000,000 shall be for the purpose of developing, offering, or improving educational or career training programs at community colleges, defined as public institutions of higher education, as described in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and at which the associate's degree is primarily the highest degree awarded, with other eligible institutions of higher



education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, eligible to participate through consortia

Additional language includes: CAREER, TECHNICAL, AND ADULT EDUCATION For carrying out, to the extent not otherwise provided, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (“Perkins Act”) and the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (“AEFLA”), \$2,191,436,000, of which \$1,400,436,000 shall become available on July 1, 2023, and shall remain available through September 30, 2024, and of which \$791,000,000 shall become available on October 1, 2023, and shall remain available through September 30, 2024: Provided, That \$25,000,000 shall be available for innovation and modernization grants under such section 114(e) of the Perkins Act: Provided further, That of the amounts made available for AEFLA, \$13,712,000 shall be for national leadership activities under section 242.