Federal Workforce and Education Policy Update

National Skills Coalition
2017 Skills Summit
February 5, 2017
What We’ve Accomplished Together…

- WIOA reauthorization (2014) includes sector partnerships, career pathways
- SNAP E&T (2014) new pilots, performance metrics
- Perkins Act – 2016 House bill strengthened alignment w/WIOA
- DOL grants - apprenticeships, community college partnerships, other key strategies
- Data measures – College Scorecard, WDQI
Today’s Discussion

• Post-election landscape
• Skills issues on tap for new Congress, Administration
• NSC’s policy recommendations
Middle Skills Still Matter

• 53 percent of U.S. jobs require middle skills, credentials
• Need to focus advocacy on policy solutions

Skills for Good Jobs Agenda

• Blueprint for investing in skills over the next four years
• Informed by many in NSC network
• Framework for our policy asks this year
2016 Elections – What Has Changed?

- White House – flips from D to R
- Senate – Republicans retain control 52-48 (was 54-46)
- House – Republicans retain control 239-194 (was 247-188)
President Trump: What do we know?

- Campaigned on jobs, infrastructure - but few details on education and training
- VP Pence was advocate for skills in Indiana; supported CTE, adult secondary
Nominees: More Uncertainties

- **Betsy DeVos (ED)**
  - Statement at nomination hearing mentioned community colleges, CTE
  - Final Senate vote this week

- **Andy Puzder (DOL)**
  - Limited track record on skills
  - Hearing postponed, TBD
115th Congress – What Changes?

- Republicans maintain control over both chambers – but how unified?
- Senate Dems retain filibuster
- New leadership in key roles
Congressional Leadership - Senate

McConnell (R-KY) remains majority leader; Schumer (NY) takes over from Reid as minority leader

Appropriations Committee (funding):
  Shelby (AL),
  Leahy (VT) (replacing Mikulski)

Labor-HHS-ED Subcommittee:
  Blunt (MO)
  Murray (WA)
Congressional Leadership – Senate (continued)

HELP Committee (HEA, Perkins, apprenticeship):
  Alexander (TN)
  Murray (WA)

Finance (TANF, tax reform):
  Hatch (UT)
  Wyden (OR)
Congressional Leadership - House

Ryan (WI) remains House Speaker;
Pelosi (CA) remains Minority Leader

Appropriations:
Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) (replaces Rogers, R-KY)
Lowey (D-NY)

Labor-HHS Subcommittee:
Cole (R-OK)
DeLauro (D-CT)
Congressional Leadership – House (continued)

Education and Workforce:
- Foxx (R-NC) (*replaces* Kline, R-MN)
- Scott (D-VA)

Ways and Means:
- Brady (R-TX);
- Neal (D-MA) (*replaces* Levin, D-MI)
Workforce Issues for 115th Congress

- FY 2017 appropriations
- FY 2018 budget and appropriations
- Infrastructure and apprenticeship
- “Welfare” reform
- HEA/Perkins reauthorization
FY 2017 Budget and Appropriations

• FY 2017 Continuing Resolution (CR) runs through April 2017

• 2015 budget deal increased budget caps and suspended sequestration – unclear if R’s will keep

• Best outcome: CR or omnibus maintains current funding through September
FY 2018 Budget and Appropriations

• Return of sequestration – NDD budget caps start below FY17 levels – so cuts likely

• FY18 budget expected to address tax and entitlement reforms

• Administration full budget request unlikely until May

• **Best case:** current caps remain in place

• **Worst case:** NDD funding cut to make room for defense, other priorities
So What are We Asking For?

- Expand access to family supporting jobs through the reauthorization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Make it easier for working students to get credentials sought by local businesses through the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA).
- Strengthen CTE investments by aligning the Perkins Act with local and regional labor market demands.
- Invest in apprenticeship to help workers and businesses succeed.
- Invest in our infrastructure workforce so enough workers have the right skills to build and maintain our country’s critical roads, bridges, and transit.
- Equip America’s workers to upskill and meet employer needs through the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC), HEA, and TANF.
TANF/Welfare “reform”

- House TANF bill stalled in 2015
- Speaker Ryan’s “A Better Way” anti-poverty agenda calls for block grants, work requirements
- **Our recommendations:**
  - Shift from measuring “work participation” to measuring outcomes
  - Remove restrictions on training
  - Increase funding; invest in proven models
Infrastructure Investments

- President Trump has proposed $1T investment; support up to 11M jobs
- **Our recommendations:**
  - Targeted funding connected to specific projects
  - Align investments with WIOA and other efforts
  - WBL Support Fund for work supports
Upskilling for Low-Income Workers

• Unlike to see immigration reform or increases in WIOA Title II funds
• Focus on increasing alignment with other policies, programs
• **Our recommendations:**
  – Expand training under TANF
  – Create Career Pathways Fund in HEA
  – Expand WOTC to include investments in upskilling
HEA Reauthorization

• Limited action last year, but high priority for Sen. Alexander

• **Our recommendations:**
  – Expand Pell for occupational programs
  – Career Pathways Fund $500M for student supports
  – Measure employment and earnings outcomes
Perkins Reauthorization

• House approved bill in September, but Senate did not take up
• Action possible Q1 2017
• Our recommendations:
  – Invest in industry partnerships
  – Expand work-based learning opportunities
  – Measure employment and earnings outcomes
Apprenticeship

• $250M+ grants in 2016, funding for FY17 TBD

• Focus on expanding pipelines, target industries

• **Our recommendations:**
  – Invest in intermediaries
  – Tax credits and subsidies for participating employers
  – WBL Support Fund for ongoing work supports
Questions?
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