
SEPT/OCT 2017 REGION III PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



1. FEDERAL UPDATES

- [President Trump declares opioid epidemic public health emergency](#). For the most part, the opioid epidemic is not occurring on college campuses – though students may matriculate already addicted & injuries in sports that may lead to opioid prescriptions are a risk factor. [CDC Report here](#).
- DACA is set to expire with a 6-month delay. Several bills have been introduced to keep the program alive, including the [Bridge Act](#), Recognizing America's Children Act, [Dream Act \(2017\)](#), American Hope Act, and [Succeed Act](#). Some of the bills are more bipartisan than others. House Democrats' American Hope Act is the broadest bill yet proposed to deal with the DREAMers, while the Recognizing America's Children (RAC) Act from a group of moderate House Republicans places moderate restrictions on DREAMers before they're allowed to get green cards.
- Immigration Enforcement: The [Davis-Oliver Act](#) would be a big step up for immigration enforcement, but not quite as aggressive as making the E-Verify system (which checks the legal status of workers and applicants) mandatory for all employers in the US. The [RAISE Act](#) is a *broader* transformation of immigration policy. Priority would instead be given based on a scorecard of certain identifying traits such as ability to speak English, income prospects, and job skills. These priorities are similar to those of immigration law prior to 1965 which limited entrance to non-white groups.
- Free Speech: Bills in at least 23 states, many based on [Goldwater proposal](#). Bills prohibit administration from disinviting speakers and requires campuses to actively protect anyone's right to speak, prevent interference from others. PPD Virtual Town Hall on Free Speech is scheduled for November 2015. Register here: <https://naspa.zoom.us/meeting/register/180af2b4abeb254834538d7d4481ef37>

2. TITLE IX UPDATES

- June 6, 2017 OCR Guidance to Regional Directors regarding complaints involving transgender students: "OCR should rely on Title IX and its implementing regulations, as interpreted in decisions in federal courts and OCR guidance documents that remain in effect, in evaluating complaints of sex discrimination against individuals whether or not the individual is transgender."
- September 2017 DOE rescinded Obama-Era guidance removing preponderance of evidence standard.

3. FINANCIAL AID

Regulatory Oversight

- No new updates since March 2017 and April 2017 Dear Colleague Letters from Education Secretary DeVos, which revoked July 2015 DCL regarding loan servicing and memo to revoke Federal Student Loan Servicing System Requirements. More information can be found [here](#).
- Education Department did not renew MOU with the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau (CFPB) regarding oversight of student loans. More information can be found [here](#).
- Implementation of borrower defense rules are delayed until at least July 2018, but possibly delayed to 2019. [Negotiated rulemaking](#) re-opens for borrower defense, gainful employment in Fall; list of negotiators released in October. More information can be found [here](#).

FY '18 Federal Budget/Tax Reform: Both chambers approved Senate budget resolution in October which allows for \$1.5 trillion deficit spending; Level funding for ED programs for FY2017, but deep cuts in future years.

HEA Reauthorization: House Ed & Workforce Chair Foxx set to unveil comprehensive bill in Fall. No Senate hearings yet. Uncertain how HEA re-authorization will proceed and whether the smaller House bills will be rolled up into a larger package; 112th Congress, House passed a lot of small HEA amendments piecemeal, Senate proposed (but didn't pass) one large omnibus bill.

4. STATE UPDATES

Alabama	No updates provided.
Florida	Florida updates can be found on the following website: https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/00002
Georgia	GA Court of Appeals reverses in-state tuition policy in response to the Trump Administration's announcement to end DACA.
Kentucky	No updates provided.
Louisiana	No updates provided.
Mississippi	Mississippi SB 2710 revokes funding from sanctuary cities, agencies, and institutions.
North Carolina	Goldwater-based bills passed in NC. Higher Education bills proposed can be found online .
South Carolina	No updates provided.
Tennessee	Pending legislation in Tennessee (TN HB 660 & TN SB 635) would give public institutions discretion in determining eligibility for state residency status. TN SB 0723 free speech legislation passed based on Chicago Statement that doesn't proscribe sanctions.
Texas	TX HB 46 and TX HB 50 , during Texas Special Session, both failed to move forward by the end date of 8/16/2017. TX SB 4 , which would have created cooperation between local law enforcement, including campus

	enforcement and ICE, was blocked from implementation. Texas (TX SB 2171 , TX SB 2059 , and TX HB 393) introduced legislation which sought to revoke the in-state tuition policy in place, but all three bills failed to make headway.
Virginia	VA HB 1401 is free speech legislation that colleges must not abridge constitutional rights.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

[NASPA's Public Policy Agenda](#)

- Student success and college completion;
- Student safety and wellness, including financial and mental wellness and protections for trans students and victims of sexual assault;
- Costs of higher education, student debt, and borrower protections;
- Inclusive opportunities for access and success in higher education; and
- Civic engagement and freedom of expression.

RPI Public Policy Briefing on Respondent Rights: You can access the slides and a recording of the briefing from the [NASPA Online Learning Center](#): <https://olc.naspa.org/>

- If you're not already registered for the Public Policy Briefing Series, you'll need to [register](#): <https://olc.naspa.org/catalog/naspa-policy-briefing-series>
- Once registered, you can access the series by logging into the [NASPA Online Learning Center](#). You'll need to sign in with your NAPSAs user name and password (if you aren't still logged in from when you registered), and will then see your dashboard.
- For most people, the dashboard will bring you automatically to your "enrolled" events, and you should see "NASPA Policy Briefing Series" in that list. If not, you can click on "Enrolled" from the menu in the upper center of the page and select it from there.

Weekly posts to the RPI blog (<http://www.naspa.org/rpi>)

Monthly Public Policy Briefing Series

- Sign up: <https://olc.naspa.org/catalog/naspa-policy-briefing-series>

SAVE THE DATE: Student Affairs Day of Action / NASPA on the Hill Days in July 2018

- July 16-17, 2018

If you want to get more involved in public policy at the state level, the following states have State Public Policy Directors that you can contact. Here is the listing of State Public Policy

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This monthly newsletter is compiled by the NASPA Region III Public Policy Representative, Dr. Heidi Leming. If you would like to send suggestions for the next newsletter, please email hleming@tbr.edu.