



## NASPA POLICY UPDATES DIGEST

6.17.19

### **NASPA LETTERS OF SUPPORT & POLICY PUBLICATIONS:**

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[Spotlight on Federal Work-Study: 4 Things You Need To Know About Student Employment](#) by Alexa Wesley

With continued debate in Congress around plans for a long overdue reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), policymakers have increasingly focused attention on possible updates to one of the oldest campus-based financial aid programs, Federal Work-Study (FWS). Introduced as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, FWS was designed with the goal of providing low-income students with part-time jobs to help them pay for college expenses. The one-billion-dollar program serves over half a million undergraduate and graduate students each year by subsidizing up to 75 percent of student employees' wages, which counts as part of their financial aid packages. The standard FWS award was once able to cover over 90 percent of the tuition and fees of an average four-year public institution. Over time, however, the ability of FW to offset college costs has weakened, and the average award of \$1,550 per year now covers about 16 percent of tuition and fees at public four-year institutions. Despite mainly maintaining bipartisan support for decades, the program is now facing greater scrutiny – for both its flaws and its potential – in a shifting postsecondary education landscape. This post highlights four things to know about student employment as they relate to the Federal Work-Study policy debate.

[PostsecData Responds to Request for Feedback on the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study](#) (6/11/2019)—Twenty-four members of the Postsecondary Data Collaborative, including NASPA, signed onto a letter providing feedback to the Department of Education regarding the National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS). NPSAS remains the only cross-sectional federal survey that represents all college students and allows for detailed disaggregation by race/ethnicity, income, and other indicators. NPSAS is also the base survey for both longitudinal postsecondary surveys—Beginning Postsecondary Students (BPS) and Baccalaureate and Beyond (B&B)—which are commonly used to understand how student experiences and characteristics relate to their completion, persistence, and post-college outcomes.

[Coalition letter in Support of Increased CCAMPIS Appropriations](#) (6/3/2019) – NASPA joined with 11 other associations and childcare centers from over 25 institutions on a letter to

Congressional appropriators in support of increased funding for the Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools (CCAMPIS) program.

## **RELEVANT BILLS, REGULATIONS, & UPDATES:**

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### ***Federal Updates:***

#### **[H.R. 3267 – To require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing-related misconduct, and for other purposes.](#)**

Sponsor: Rep. Fudge, Marcia L. [D-OH-11] (Introduced 06/13/2019)

Committees: House - Education and Labor

Latest Action: House - 06/13/2019 Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

This bipartisan bill is also known as the End All Hazing Act and would require institutions to report any hazing allegation that involved serious bodily injury or risk of serious injury to campus police and appropriate law enforcement within 72 hours. The bill also requires institutions to maintain a website, updated every January 1 and July 1, that shares information about student organizations disciplined for hazing over the previous five years. The bill text includes federal definitions for "hazing" and "student organization" (text is not yet posted).

#### **[S. 1732 – The College Admissions Fairness Act](#)**

Sponsor: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] (Introduced 06/05/2019)

Committees: Senate - Finance

Latest Action: Senate - 06/05/2019 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Legislation introduced by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) in response to the Varsity Blues college admissions scandal. The legislation would require campuses to implement policies prohibiting donations from being considered in admissions decisions. If institutions do not implement such policies, the bill would restrict the tax deductibility of donations made to those institutions.

#### **[S.Res. 233 / H.Res. 191 – Relating to protecting freedom of speech, though, and expression at institutions of higher education.](#)**

Senate Sponsor: Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN] (Introduced 06/05/2019)

House Sponsor: Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1] (Introduced 03/07/2019)

Committees: Senate – Judiciary; House - Education and Labor; Judiciary

Latest Action: Senate - 06/05/2019 Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. House - 03/25/2019 Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

#### **[House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee hearing: "Ending the TCJA Tax on Houses of Worship, Charities, and Nonprofits"](#)**

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

The hearing will focus on the tax imposed by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) on some employee benefits offered by nonprofits, such as parking and transit passes. The second panel includes a witness who will represent higher education in the conversation, Christopher L. Augustini, Executive Vice President for Business and Administration at Emory University.

### ***Regulatory Updates:***

**\*\*Want to submit comments of your own? Check out [NASPA's Q&A](#) on submitting public comments\*\***

### **[Student Assistance General Provisions, The Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies, The Secretary's Recognition Procedures for State Agencies](#)**

- A proposed rule by the Education Department on June 12, 2019
- Comment period ends on July 12, 2019
- If a final rule is released by November 1, 2019, it would go into effect July 1, 2020
- This proposed rule represents the consensus language agreed to during negotiated rulemaking.

The Secretary proposes to amend the regulations governing the recognition of accrediting agencies, certain student assistance general provisions, and institutional eligibility, as well as make various technical corrections. The proposed regulations would:

- Revise the requirements for accrediting agencies in their oversight of member institutions and programs to be less prescriptive and provide greater autonomy and flexibility in order to facilitate agility and responsiveness and promote innovation;
- Revise the criteria used by the Secretary to recognize accrediting agencies to focus on education quality and allow competition;
- Revise the Department's process for recognition and review of accrediting agencies;
- Clarify the core oversight responsibilities among each entity in the regulatory triad—accrediting agencies, States, and the Department—to hold institutions accountable;
- Establish the roles and responsibilities of institutions and accrediting agencies in the teach-out process;
- Establish that the Department recognizes an institution's legal authorization to operate postsecondary educational programs when it is exempt from State authorization under the State constitution or by State law as a religious institution with a religious mission;
- Revise the State authorization requirements for institutions offering distance education or correspondence courses; and
- Remove the regulations related to the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program, which has not been funded in many years.

### **[ED releases Q&A on Compliance with the 2016 Borrower Defense to Repayment Regulations \(6/3/19\)](#)**

The questions and answers relate to the "2016 borrower defense to repayment regulations" published by the Department in the Federal Register on November 1, 2016, concerning borrower defense to repayment and other related matters. 81 Fed. Reg. 75,926. This information

supplements the electronic announcement issued on March 15, 2019, with the subject heading "Guidance Concerning Some Provisions of the 2016 Borrower Defense to Repayment Regulations" and the electronic announcement issued on May 20, 2019, with the subject heading, "Questions Regarding the Financial Responsibility Provisions of the 2016 Borrower Defense Regulations." This information supersedes any previous information that may have been provided on the issues below. *Institutions are expected to submit any necessary supplemental reporting as a result of any information included in this Q&A document within 10 calendar days (6/13/19) of the date that the information was posted.* The Department anticipates updating these questions and answers on an ongoing basis