

UNDERSTANDING THE NEW CONGRESS: AN OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD-FOCUSED COMMITTEES, MEMBERS, & PRIORITIES

The November 6th, 2018 mid-term elections and particularly new Democratic control of the US House of Representatives has ushered in many changes in the 116th Congress, including a new dynamic not only between Congress and the Trump Administration but also between the House and the U.S. Senate where Republicans remain in control. This memo outlines key committees and members within both chambers of Congress, including their respective education-related and other early childhood-focused legislative priorities. The memo includes an overview and analysis of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee (including committee member priorities), as well as the Appropriations, Budget, and Finance Committees. Additionally, the memo also analyzes the House Education and Labor Committee (including committee member priorities), as well as the Appropriations, Budget, and Ways and Means Committees.

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KEY TAKE AWAYS

- **A divided Congress** and government may make legislative accomplishments challenging but key members will try to move their priorities forward regardless.
- **House Democrats have named education as a priority**, including increasing investments in public education, as well as increased oversight of the U.S. Department of Education.
- Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) of the Senate HELP Committee will likely pursue reauthorization of the **Higher Education Act** (HEA), and may seek moving pieces of a full reauthorization if unable to reach any compromise within the Senate and with House Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA).
- **Freshmen members on the House** Education and Labor Committee could prove to be stalwart champions of education priorities including increased investments in early childhood programs, greater supports for teachers and school personnel, and increased access to affordable postsecondary opportunities.
- **Tables at the end of this document** provide a look at the Senate and House education committees member-by-member, including the full Senate HELP Committee and new members of the House Education & Labor Committee.

U.S. SENATE

There are several Senate committees that will consider legislation this Congress that impacts all levels of education policy. The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) has jurisdiction over education laws from early childhood through postsecondary education. The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related

Agencies (Labor/HHS) will determine funding amounts for programs at the U.S. Departments of Education (USED), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Labor. The Senate Budget Committee will have an impact on how much funding is available for appropriators to allocate across the agencies, including funding caps. The Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over several programs that impact early childhood, child welfare, and other related programs.

SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS (HELP) COMMITTEE

In the 116th Congress, the Senate HELP Committee will remain under the leadership of Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), who will serve as Chairman, and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), who will serve as Ranking Member. The HELP Committee has jurisdiction over education laws from early childhood through postsecondary education.

HELP Committee members remained largely consistent between the 115th and 116th Congress but with some important changes. Republican Senators on the Committee are Michael Enzi (R-WY), Richard Burr (R-NC), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Rand Paul (R-KY), Susan Collins (R-ME), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Tim Scott (R-SC), Mitt Romney (R-UT), and Mike Braun (R-IN). Senator Todd Young (R-IN) left the Committee. The Republicans also picked up an additional seat given the increase in their majority in the Senate bringing their total representation on the HELP Committee to 12 members.

The Democratic Senators that serve on HELP are Robert Casey (D-PA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Tina Smith (D-MN), Doug Jones (D-AL), and Jacky Rosen (D-NV). Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) caucuses with the Democrats, bringing their total representation on the HELP Committee to 11 members. Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) left the Committee.

Senate HELP Committee likely to pursue priorities of Chairman Alexander, HEA reauthorization moving but completion is uncertain

Key to understanding the agenda for the Senate HELP Committee in the 116th Congress is to examine the education priorities of Chairman Alexander. Given his interest in higher education issues, as a former college president and former U.S. Secretary of Education, and the fact that the Higher Education Act (HEA) has not been reauthorized since 2008, there is a belief that he will want to see the issue move forward during his tenure. Chairman Alexander has clearly announced this intention, and he has also announced his retirement at the end of this Congress, which could increase his urgency for action. If a bi-partisan agreement cannot be achieved, the Chairman has indicated he is willing to take a piece-meal approach – specifically on legislation addressing financial aid – to higher education reauthorization, which will prove challenging considering his House committee counterpart – Education and Labor Committee Chairman Bobby Scott (D-VA) – is currently uninterested in pursuing anything except a comprehensive approach to higher education reform.

Other issues the HELP Committee may consider this Congress include the Education Sciences Reform Act (ESRA), which governs the research arm of the Department of Education, and the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), to update the child-abuse prevention laws.

History of collaboration could prove critical to Alexander, Murray relationship; however, HELP Committee will still experience partisan conflicts like the rest of Congress

Ranking Member Murray, while still within the Minority, plays a key role in the priorities and successes of the HELP Committee. The Chairman and Ranking Member have a history of bipartisan collaboration

as evidenced by the work accomplished in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the recent reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. However, there is some belief their ability to work together may have been compromised by disagreements in implementation of state ESSA plans, in addition to the contentious confirmation of USED Secretary Betsy DeVos. Ranking Member Murray has advocated for significant oversight of the Department, the Secretary, and states, much to the disagreement of Chairman Alexander.

Further, the HELP Committee will be impacted by broader partisan politics, such as in the ideological disagreements on the role of the federal government in higher education and civil rights laws. Specifically, there have already been strong divides in how to hold for-profit institutions accountable and how to regulate and enforce Title IX, including ED's proposal to roll back the regulations that govern how institutions should address sexual assault and harassment. These issues, compounded by the upcoming presidential elections and the multiple Senators that have declared their candidacy for president, will certainly affect the progress that is possible by the HELP Committee.

Ranking Member Murray will continue to be a strong advocate of early childhood education and childcare priorities, including the expansion of high-quality programs and increased investments – both of which maintain bipartisan support. Ranking Member Murray, a former preschool teacher herself, is particularly interested in the Child Care for Working Families Act, which would address childcare costs across the country. Not only will her priorities be evident in the authorizing authority of the HELP Committee, Ranking Member Murray also serves as Ranking Member of the Senate Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, giving her influence over appropriations for relevant agencies and programs.

Appendix 1 has more information on other HELP Committee members and their potential education-related priorities.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS) will determine funding amounts for programs at the U.S. Departments of Education (USED), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Labor.

There are no changes in overall membership or Committee size, or leadership of the full Senate Appropriations Committee, with Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL) as Chairman and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) as Ranking Member. The Labor/HHS Subcommittee will continue to be chaired by Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) remains Ranking Member.

Republican Senators on the Committee are Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Susan Collins (R-ME), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Roy Blunt (R-MO), Jerry Moran (R-KS), John Hoeven (R-ND), John Boozman (R-AR), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), John Kennedy (R-LA), Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), Steve Daines (R-MT), Marco Rubio (R-FL), and James Lankford (R-OK).

The Democratic Senators that serve on the Appropriations Committee are Patty Murray (D-WA), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Jack Reed (D-RI), Jon Tester (D-MT), Tom Udall (D-NM), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Chris Coons (D-DE), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Joe Manchin (D-WV), and Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

SENATE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Senate Budget Committee will have an impact on how much funding is available for appropriators to allocate across the agencies, including with regard to setting funding caps. The Committee is chaired

by Senator Enzi (R-WY) with Senator Sanders (I-VT) serving as the Ranking Member. Republican Senators on the committee include Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Mike Crapo (R-ID), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Ron Johnson (R-WI), David Perdue (R-GA), Mike Braun (R-IN), Rick Scott (R-FL), John Kennedy (R-LA), and Kevin Cramer (R-ND). Democratic Senators include Patty Murray (D-WA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Mark Warner (D-VA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Kamala Harris (D-CA).

With the impending discussions around the deficit limit and the need for Congress to raise the budget caps, it will be more challenging than usual for Congress to pass a budget resolution for FY2020, which would then guide federal appropriations. They will need to develop a plan to address the current caps on discretionary federal spending – both for defense and non-defense. The current agreement to lift the caps expires in 2019¹. If Congress does not reach a deal to lift the caps, federal agencies will have to cut approximately \$71 billion in defense discretionary funding and \$55 billion in non-defense discretionary funding to abide by the existing caps, or sequestration would occur, resulting in automatic cuts.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Senate Finance Committee will be led by Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), who will replace Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), who retired at the end of the 115th Congress. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) remains the Ranking Member of the Committee. The Senate Finance Committee has jurisdiction over several programs that impact early childhood, child welfare, and other related programs, including those that are operated by the Administration for Children and Families within HHS.

The Republican Senators include Mike Crapo (R-ID), Pat Roberts (R-KS), Michael Enzi (R-WY), John Cornyn (R-TX), John Thune (R-SD), Richard Burr (R-NC), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Rob Portman (R-OH), Pat Toomey (R-PA), Tim Scott (R-SC), Bill Cassidy (R-LA), James Lankford (R-OK), Steve Daines (R-MT), and Todd Young (R-IN).

The Democratic Senators include Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Thomas Carper (D-DE), Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Robert Casey (D-PA), Mark Warner (D-VA), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV).

Chairman Grassley has listed trade, health care, and tax reform as his top agenda items for the Committee. However, in the past, he has focused on many issues that affect foster youth; so he may use his new chairmanship to make that a legislative priority.

Given the Finance Committee's oversight of the HHS, Ranking Member Wyden has used his leadership position to call attention to the Administration's "zero-tolerance policy" in immigration, which has resulted in the separation of thousands of migrant children from their families. The children have been placed in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which is under HHS, where many children still remain. The Ranking Member has continued to call for hearings and investigations into the Department's practices and is likely he will continue to do so.

¹ On February 9, 2018, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 was signed into law. It raised the spending limits for both defense and non-defense funding by about \$300 billion over two years (FY 2018 and FY2019). The caps had been imposed by the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The 2018 elections brought a new Democratic majority to the House and ushered in many changes in congressional leadership. The two main House committees that deal with education policy are the Committee on Education and Labor², which oversees education and workforce programs and initiatives including early learning, K-12, higher education, and continuing education, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor/HHS), which allocates funding for education programs. The Committee on Ways and Means also has jurisdiction of some education and early childhood related programs, such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and tax programs such as the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

On January 4, Rep. Bobby Scott (D-VA) was elected by the Democratic Caucus to serve as the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee. Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC) will now serve as the Ranking Member of the Committee. The Committee oversees education and workforce programs and initiatives including early learning, K-12, higher education, and continuing education.

The Democrats that will remain on the House Education and Labor Committee are Reps. Susan Davis (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Joe Courtney (D-CT), Marcia Fudge (D-OH), Gregorio Kilili Sablan (D-Mariana Islands), Frederica Wilson (D-FL), Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), Mark Takano (D-CA), Alma Adams (D-NC), Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA), and Donald Norcross (D-NJ). Three Democrats – Reps. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), and Adriano Espaillat (D-NY) – have left the committee.

New Democratic members include Reps. Josh Harder (D-CA), Jahana Hayes (D-CT), Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Susie Lee (D-NV), Andy Levin (D-MI), Lucy McBath (D-GA), Joe Morelle (D-NY), Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Kim Schrier (D-WA), Donna Shalala (D-FL), Haley Stevens (D-MI), David Trone (D-MD), Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Susan Wild (D-PA), Joaquin Castro (D-TX), and Lori Trahan (D-MA).

With Democrats taking control of the House, Chairman Scott will determine the Committee's priorities

Since 2014, Chairman Scott had served as the Ranking Member of the Committee. Chairman Scott is a former civil rights lawyer, and he has brought that perspective to his education priorities in Congress. He has said that the Democratic education agenda would focus on closing persistent gaps in educational equity and achievement, increasing college enrollment and completion, expanding access to quality workforce training, and supporting greater federal investments in school infrastructure.

The Chairman has been a vocal critic of USED Secretary DeVos and has expressed his commitment to oversight of her and the Department's actions, including through the use of hearings and other oversight activities. Potential hearings may include examining the Department's efforts to investigate alleged civil rights violations, the Department's overturning of the Obama Administration's school discipline policy, the Department's rescission of protections for transgender students, and the Department's interpretation of ESSA's requirements regarding accountability for student groups in states.

Additionally, Chairman Scott has been a critic of school choice, with his opposition coming from a civil rights perspective. He also has criticized charter schools saying they may exacerbate racial and economic isolation in schools.

² Note the Committee has officially changed its name from Committee on Education and the Workforce. The change to Committee on Education and Labor is common for when Democrats are in the majority.

On higher education, Chairman Scott's priorities are to make college more affordable, make student financial aid more generous, and make student loans easier to repay. During the 115th Congress, the Chairman introduced the Aim Higher Act, which included a large-scale reauthorization of HEA. The proposal included a greater investment in federal student aid, including Pell Grants, greater oversight and accountability of for-profit colleges, an expansion of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, and greater investments in programs to develop teachers and school leaders. While the Chairman is committed to attempting HEA reauthorization in a bipartisan manner, it is likely he will use the Aim Higher Act as a starting point for negotiations.

Another priority for Chairman Scott will be reforms focused on assisting at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. He has previously introduced the Youth Promise Act to use prevention and early intervention to stop youth violence. Additionally, during the 115th Congress, Chairman Scott was a co-sponsor of the passed Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018, which reauthorized the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act).

Appendix 2 has more information on the new Education and Labor Committee members and their potential education-related priorities.

HOSUE LABOR/HHS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) will serve as the Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, with Rep. Kay Granger (R-TX) serving as Ranking Member. For the Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) will serve as the Chairwoman and Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) will serve as Ranking Member. Three new Democrats will join the Subcommittee – Lois Frankel (D-FL), Cheri Bustos (D-IL), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ). The House Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee allocates funding for education and early childhood programs.

Given the new leadership, there will likely be an increase in funding allocated to the Labor/HHS Subcommittee. Under her leadership, Rep. DeLauro will likely work to increase appropriations for programs such as Pell Grants, Title X (family planning), and early childhood education programs, and will most likely include a ban on federal funds authorized under ESSA from being used to purchase firearms or firearms training for school personnel in a FY2020 House Labor/HHS Appropriations bill, leading to negotiations with the Senate and Administration.

Further, it may be likely that the Democrats will attempt to respond to actions taken by the Administration regarding Title IX regulations, the “zero tolerance” policy, and others by including funding mechanisms, or “riders,” within the final FY2020 House Labor/HHS Appropriations bill. Similar actions were taken during the FY2019 process, such as the requirement the Administration provide more information on the “zero tolerance” policy’s implementation or face gradual decreases in appropriations funding for HHS.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The House Ways and Means Committee will be chaired by Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA) and Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) will serve as the Ranking Member. The Ways and Means Committee has jurisdiction over all taxation and revenue-raising measures. They also oversee several children-related issues including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), foster care and adoption programs, and enforcement of child support laws. Chairman Neal has stated the committee will conduct oversight into the Republican tax law, which included the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The House Budget Committee will be chaired by Rep. John Yarmuth (D-KY) and Rep. Steve Womack (R-AR) will serve as Ranking Member. The Committee will need to work with the Senate Budget Committee to develop a plan to address the caps on discretionary federal spending in order to prevent automatic cuts in funding to education and other domestic programs.³

For more information, please contact Scott Palmer, Jamie Fasteau, or Sean Worley at 202.689.2893.

EDUCATIONCOUNSEL

³ On February 9, 2018, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 was signed into law. It raised the spending limits for both defense and non-defense funding by about \$300 billion over two years (FY 2018 and FY2019). The caps had been imposed by the Budget Control Act (BCA) of 2011.

APPENDICES: THE NEW CONGRESS AND KEY EDUCATION MEMBERS AND PRIORITIES

APPENDIX 1. The Senate HELP Committee: Education and early childhood priorities for Republican and Democratic members of the Committee

Senator	Possible Priorities
Michael Enzi (R-WY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader on the Career and Technical Education (CTE) reauthorization bill. • Likely to push to improve the information students and families have access to when they take on federal loans for college as a sponsor of the Transparency in Student Lending Act. • As chair of the Budget Committee, he will also have an impact on the availability of funds to support education programs.
Richard Burr (R-NC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly opposes a large federal role in education. • Has advocated for a greater shift in education funding to benefit rural states.
Johnny Isakson (R-GA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very aligned with Chairman Alexander and seen as a key ally on the Committee. • Supports the ability for students and families to opt-out of standardized assessments; and for states to have a lowered burden of academic remediation for students with disabilities. • As a former veteran, and chair of the Senate Veterans' Committee, he has made veterans' issues key legislative priorities, including access to higher education.
Rand Paul (R-KY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for the Department of Education to be abolished. • Advocates for school choice, including private school vouchers, homeschooling and online education.
Susan Collins (R-ME)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voted against Secretary DeVos's confirmation, noting her lack of experience with public schools. • Facing re-election in 2020 so may be more open than her Republican colleagues to enforce its Department of Education oversight role.
Bill Cassidy (R-LA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a medical doctor and parent of a daughter with dyslexia and has used his time on the committee to fight for students with special needs, specifically provisions to help support students with dyslexia. • Has previously supported the expansion of public charter schools.
Pat Roberts (R-KS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will retire in 2020. • Has introduced school safety legislation to allow schools to use federal funding for security and mental health improvements.
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voted against Education Secretary DeVos's confirmation, citing DeVos' stance on vouchers. • Has made education for the Native American/Alaskan community a priority.
Mitt Romney (R-UT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected to replace Senator Hatch from Utah. • Has focused on expanded school choice and cutting regulations in the postsecondary sector.
Mike Braun (R-IN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was elected to the Senate as an outsider who ran as a conservative businessman. • Previously served as a member of a local School Board and was a State Representative from 2014-2017.
Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates for including free college tuition at public universities for all students with family income up to \$125,000. • Focused on cutting student loan interest rates in half. • Likely a candidate for the Democratic nomination for president.
Robert Casey (D-PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has focused on early learning and increasing investments in early childhood education. • Co-sponsored the Safe Schools Improvement Act (SSIA) in the 115th Congress, which would require schools to have anti-bullying policies that enumerate fully all students most vulnerable to bullying (include LGBTQ+ students).

APPENDIX 1 (cont'd). The Senate HELP Committee: Education and early childhood priorities for Republican and Democratic members of the Committee

Senator	Possible Priorities
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has focused on higher education and was a leader in the fight to reauthorize career and technical education legislation. • Has also focused on making college more affordable, including supporting free community college.
Chris Murphy (D-CT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led on strong accountability metrics in ESSA, specifically focused on the monitoring and support of student groups based on race or socioeconomic status.
Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announced her candidacy for president in the 2020 election on December 31, 2018. • Will prioritize her efforts to reduce student debt and make college more affordable. • Will focus on holding institutions, especially student loan servicers, accountable • Has also advocated for investments in early childhood education, including an increase in the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG)
Tim Kaine (D-VA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founder and co-chair of the Senate CTE Caucus. • Has introduced legislation to increase innovation in higher education.
Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother of a child with disabilities. • Has focused primarily on students with special needs.
Tina Smith (D-MN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced former Senator Al Franken during the 115th Congress. • Previously served as Lt. Governor of Minnesota where she enacted all-day kindergarten and expanded early childhood programs. • Has a focus on increased access to wrap-around services critical to educational success.
Doug Jones (D-AL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) • Proponent of CTE funding • Has advocated for increased research into, and implementation of, open textbooks in higher education as a vehicle to reduce student costs.
Jacky Rosen (D-NV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman Senator who defeated Senator Dean Heller (R-NV). • Former member of the House of Representatives. • Largely focused on STEM education given her background in computer programming and software development • Identifies as a first-generation college student • Advocates for increased affordability of college and expanding postsecondary opportunities for students, including apprenticeships and community colleges

APPENDIX 2. The House Education & Labor Committee – New Members: Education and early childhood priorities for new Democratic and Republican members of the Committee

Representative	Key Priorities
Josh Harder (D-CA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Campaign promises included: increasing teacher pay, ensuring access to universal pre-kindergarten, making community college and career and technical education training programs tuition-free, and modernizing schools with new technology.
Jahana Hayes (D-CT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • 2016 National Teacher of the Year. • Campaign promises included: increasing resources for teachers, fighting for stronger national education standards, increasing resources for youth re-entry programs, counseling and career and technical education, and making college more affordable through expanding the Pell Grant program and offering loan forgiveness to students who enter public service. • Has also questioned the value of school choice for children who don't have a parent who can help make education decisions.
Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second-term Congresswoman. • Considered a progressive voice in the Democratic Caucus and is a leader on immigration. • Has previously been outspoken against the funding of charter schools.
Susie Lee (D-NV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Founding director of After-School All-Stars, which conducts after school programs for children, and served as president of Communities in Schools of Nevada, a dropout prevention organization. • Wants to use her committee position to promote vocational apprenticeships and seek solutions to growing student debt.
Andy Levin (D-MI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress, winning his father's, Sander Levin, seat. • Former union organizer. • Wife is an elementary school teacher. • Campaign promises included: supporting universal pre-kindergarten, opposing unlimited charter schools, supporting teachers unions, and making community college and four-year institutions free for students from low-income backgrounds.
Lucy McBath (D-GA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • After the death of her son at a gas station in Jacksonville, Florida in 2012, McBath became a strong advocate for gun safety laws. • Founder of the Champion in the Making Legacy Foundation that provides educational assistance for high school students wishing to attend traditional and vocational schools after graduation.
Joe Morelle (D-NY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Previously served as New York Assembly Majority Leader. • Strong supporter of unions.
Ilhan Omar (D-MN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • First Somali-American, Muslim Congresswoman. • Campaign promises included: advocating for universal pre-kindergarten, and increasing access to tuition-free and debt-free programs for two and four-year public colleges and universities.

APPENDIX 2 (cont'd). The House Education & Labor Committee – New Members: Education and early childhood priorities for new Democratic and Republican members of the Committee

Representative	Key Priorities
Kim Schrier (D-WA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Pediatrician. • Daughter of a public school teacher. • Campaign promises included: improving student outcomes with a focus on STEM, providing needed resources to disadvantaged schools, making higher education affordable with no-interest loans and grants to students who need them, and advocating for early childhood education
Donna Shalala (D-FL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Former Secretary of HHS under President Bill Clinton. • Served as president of the University of Miami, chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and president of Hunter College.
Haley Stevens (D-MI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Developed STEM programs for middle and high school students. • Campaign promises included: improving workforce development opportunities, and expanding access to tuition free community college, through the use of state-based cost-sharing programs.
David Trone (D-MD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Son of a public school teacher. • Campaign promises included: expanding universal pre-kindergarten, and expanding access to free community college.
Lauren Underwood (D-IL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Campaign promises included: continued investments in public schools, and making college more affordable through increasing investment in higher education institutions, increasing funding for Pell grants, increasing the availability of affordable subsidized student loans, and continuing the public service loan forgiveness program.
Susan Wild (D-PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • First female Solicitor of Allentown. • Said she would leverage her committee position to provide a “powerful platform to fight for working families.”
Joaquin Castro (D-TX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth-term member of Congress. • Founder and co-Chair of the Congressional Pre-K Caucus; sponsor of Pre-K USA, which is focused on providing school districts with a direct line to federal funding. • Under is tenure as mayor of San Antonio, he implemented the “Pre-K 4 SA” universal pre-K program.
Lori Trahan (D-MA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freshman member of Congress. • Campaign promises included: defending collective bargaining; expanding apprenticeship programs; supporting job training programs; and advocating for college affordability.
Mark Walker (R-NC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third-term member of Congress. • Previously sponsored the “A-PLUS Act,” which would allow states to opt out of ESSA programs and repurpose federal funds through state consolidation. • Has previously advocated on behalf of HBCUs.
James Comer (R-KY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second-term member of Congress. • Has argued for a smaller federal role in education, stating “teachers [should] be able to teach without interference from the federal government.” • Has argued for more diverse career and technical education programs.

APPENDIX 2 (cont'd). The House Education & Labor Committee – New Members: Education and early childhood priorities for new Democratic and Republican members of the Committee

Representative	Key Priorities
Ben Cline (R-VA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. No public positions on education issues.
Russ Fulcher (R-ID)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. While in the Idaho State Senate, he served on the Education Committee. Has argued for a smaller federal role in education.
Van Taylor (R-TX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. Strong opponent of a federal role in education.
Steve Watkins (R-KS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. Army veteran and son of a public school teacher. Campaign promises included: ensuring veterans have better educational opportunities; expanding early childhood education programs, such as Head Start; opposing national education standards.
Ron Wright (R-TX)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. Campaign promises included: increasing the autonomy of local school districts; expanding school voucher programs; improving parents' opportunities for home schooling.
Dan Meuser (R-PA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. Has stated he believes school property taxes are unconstitutional.
William Timmons (R-SC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. No public positions on education issues.
Dusty Johnson (R-SD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freshman member of Congress. No public positions on education issues.