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 **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Education Division Board Members

**FROM:** Alan Thiemann

**DATE:** August 26, 2018

**RE: Senate FY’19 Appropriations Bill**

 On Thursday, August 24, the Senate passed a “minibus” Appropriations bill that includes funding for the Department of Education, as well as HHS, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Defense. Together, funding for these departments represents about 60% of all annual government funding, so this accomplishment is particularly rare. The bill was approved by a vote of 85-7 and avoided amendments on controversial issues that have derailed appropriations in past years, such as abortion, funding of Planned Parenthood, and opt-out from state assessments.

Critically, this action reduces the chances of a government shutdown on September 30. The House of Representatives has already adopted its appropriations bill for Education and other departments, so the two bodies must reconcile their differences when the House returns from summer recess on September 4. Unfortunately, the House only has 7 legislative days remaining on the calendar to resolve the bills.

The Senate bill increases FY’19 federal spending in education by about $500 million, up to a total of about $71.6 billion, including for Title I, IDEA, and Pell Grants.

We will keep you posted on developments as they arise.