

News from Congress. August, 2007

Congress Adjourns for August Recess: Where Do We Stand?

Congress adjourns at the end of this week for the August recess and will not return to work in Washington, DC, until after Labor Day. In recent months, Congress has taken up a number of bills addressing issues of concern to educators, and, with your help, NEA has secured a number of important victories. Education-related issues will also be on the fall congressional agenda.

Education Funding

Good News: Although Congress has not completed work on an education funding bill for the next fiscal year (which begins October 1, 2007), the House of Representatives has passed a bill that would provide significant increases for critical education programs like Title I, special education, and Pell Grants. The Senate Appropriations Committee has also passed a bill with real increases for education.

Status: The full Senate may take up its funding bill after the August recess. The President has threatened to veto any bill that spends more than requested in his budget, as both the House and Senate bill do. It is likely that education funding will be wrapped up in a larger "omnibus" bill at the end of the year, along with any other funding bills that Congress has not finalized. A showdown between Congress and the President is likely later this year.

ESEA Reauthorization

Good News: Nearly 70 bills have been introduced in Congress that would further parts of NEA's Positive Agenda for the ESEA Reauthorization.