118th Congress Fact Sheet: Legislation

EDUCATORS for America Act (S.1341) (H.R. 2992) introduced by Representatives Alma Adams (NC-12), Emilia Skyes (OH-13), Ruben Gallego (AZ-03), and Senators Jack Reed (RI), Bob Casey (PA), and Ben Ray Lujan (NM)

• Seeks to rebuild and reform the educator pipeline.
  o Ensuring state and local communities have the diverse and high-qualified teachers, principals, librarians, and other instructional support personnel they need to provide students with a robust and well-rounded education.

• Establishes two annual $500 million grant programs, which include:
  o Grants to support statewide strategies for the recruitment, preparation, and retention of underrepresented populations in the education field; and
  o Grants to update and expand educator preparation programs and partnerships, such as the Teacher Quality Partnership and the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program.

• Directs the U.S. Secretary of Education to make monthly student loan payments on behalf of qualified educators during their service.
  o Provides complete loan forgiveness after 5 years of service for teachers, and school leaders in high-needs school, and early childhood educators.
Arts Education for All Act (not yet introduced) introduced by Representative Suzanne Bonamici

- Expands arts education and programming to America’s youngest learners, K-12 students, and youths impacted by the juvenile justice system.
  - Makes arts programming an eligible use of Child Care and Development Block Grants
- Includes provisions to support the professional development of arts educators and to amend the ESEA in order to provide more oversight into the implementation of arts education programs.
  - Requires state report cards to include information on arts courses.
  - Directs each state educational agency to include information on arts programming in its state plan.
- Requires research on the use of arts education in elementary and secondary schools by the National Center for Education Research and the collection of data on arts education by the National Center for Education Statistics
  - Directs the National Assessment of Educational Progress to include a specified arts assessment.

Guarantee Access to Arts and Music Education (GAAME) Act (H.R.969) (S.364) introduced by Representative Nydia Velazquez (NY-07) and Senator Cory Booker (NJ)

- The GAAME Act would amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to further specify the eligibility of Title I funds to be used for music and the arts.
  - Defines “Arts” as dance, media arts, theater, and visual arts, and includes separate provisions for music education.
  - Schools receiving targeted assistance grants may use Title I funds to:
    - Improve student access to music and arts programs that address their academic needs.
    - Provide professional development to music and arts educators.
    - Purchase instructional materials.