



Indiana University Office of Government Relations

Federal Relations Report – October 2015

Introduction

This is the second Federal Relations Report for 2015. In this addition we would like to give you a look inside some of the more substantial federal policy areas the IU Office of Government Relations has been working on over the past three months. We also invite you to explore the Federal Relations website at: gov.iu.edu/federal/. This website will allow you to access these Federal Reports and explore other content related to IU's Federal Relations efforts.

Hosting Congressional Staff

During the August congressional recess, the Office of Federal Relations hosted several congressional staff members on campus. The staff members met with several university personnel on a variety of topics including Title VI International education; IU's sexual misconduct policies; IURTC and patent reform; and the operations of university endowments. All of these issues are currently pending in Congress.

These on-campus, in-person meetings are beneficial as we build a rapport with Congressional staff, and provide the staff members with opportunities to learn about policy issues from the leaders who work in those areas every day.

IU Senior Vice President and CFO testified to House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee

MaryFrances McCourt, IU's Senior Vice President and CFO, testified before the House Ways and Means Oversight Subcommittee on October 7th. The subcommittee held this hearing to hear from higher education thought leaders on national trend of rising tuition. McCourt

discussed the efforts by IU and other higher education institutions to address rising costs for students. McCourt was asked to testify on behalf of the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

Through an introductory statement and by answering questions from subcommittee members, McCourt explained how university endowments operate and what percentage of endowment expenditures support scholarships; how IU has increased operational efficiency; what long-term factors have led to increased tuition nationwide; and the difference between examining tuition rates and the actual net cost to students.

This was a great opportunity for IU to showcase our efforts to keep tuition low at our campuses and publically reiterate our comment to providing a quality, cost-effective education to Indiana students.

Perkins Loan Program Expiration

Unfortunately, Congress allowed the Federal Perkins Loan Program funding to expire going into FY16. The program provided low interest loans to low income students across approximately 1,700 higher education institutions. The House passed legislation to extend the program into FY16, but it died in the Senate.

While the program did expire, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would have extended funding to the program for one additional year. The effort to extend the Perkins programs was led in-part by Congressman Luke Messer from Indiana's 6th Congressional District. Several Members of Congress are working to resurrect the program and IU is directly involved in those efforts.

APLU Annual Conference

In November, the Association of Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) will be holding its annual conference in Indianapolis. As part of this conference, IU's Office of Federal Relations is working with APLU staff to organize a session entitled University Strategies on Sexual Assault.

The discussion will examine different approaches to addressing the campus sexual assault issues, including federal legislation such as the Campus Accountability and Safety Act (CASA), the Safe Campus Act (SCA), and the Fair Campus Act (FCA). Panelists representing different perspectives will share their views on what reforms are needed as colleges and universities strive to maintain a safe and secure campus environment.