

# Public Policy Notes



Southern Early Childhood Association

## They Finally Did It!

We're happy to report that Congress finally passed an annual omnibus budget bill (after many years of stopgap measures) and it was hailed as a bi-partisan effort. President Obama signed the bill into law on December 18, 2016 and the federal government is now funded through the remainder of the fiscal year (September 30, 2016).

According to a [White House press release](#), "*Today, the President signed into law a bipartisan budget agreement that bolsters our security, grows our economy, and reflects our values. While no deal is perfect, this agreement achieves the three key conditions set forward by the President and Congressional Democrats: undoing the harmful cuts known as sequestration, investing equally*

*in both national security and economic growth, and avoiding ideological issues. And it permanently extends vital tax credits benefiting 24 million families a year, as well as key tax cuts for companies investing in innovation and small businesses, while putting hundreds of billions in business tax breaks on a real path to expiration.*"

Republicans also felt that they achieved victory in several areas according to [House Speaker Paul Ryan](#). "*Today, the House came together to ensure our government is open and working for the American people. This bipartisan compromise secures meaningful wins for Republicans*

*and the American people, such as the repeal of the outdated, anti-growth ban on oil exports. The legislation strengthens our military and protects Americans from terrorist threats, while limiting the overreach of intrusive government bureaucracies like the IRS and the EPA. I appreciate Chairman Rogers's leadership and the entire Appropriations Committee for their work in shaping this bill. Congress can now move into 2016 with a fresh start and a plan to return to regular order in order to better protect taxpayer dollars.*"

## Let's End 2015 With the Good News!

After many years of reporting in this newsletter about budget battles, short term financing bills and partisan gridlock, it's wonderful to end 2015 on a positive note.

The ideological battles are certainly not over, but it appears with the new leadership in the

House of Representatives, a different approach is on the horizon and we will hopefully see government work as it was intended.

There's much news to report but the holidays are upon us and who wants to read this "stuff" right now!

That said, we're only going to give you the good news and make this a brief two-page newsletter. Check out the side column to see what to expect in the January edition.

December 2015

### Public Policy Notes

#### What to Look for in the Next Issue of *Public Policy Notes*

- ◆ Information about the gains in early learning programs that were included in the omnibus budget bill
- ◆ The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the rewrite of the 2002 No Child Left Behind law
- ◆ Updates on action at the state level
- ◆ Information to keep you updated and "in the know"

*Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season. We'll be back in January!*

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Southern Early Childhood Association



"A Voice for Southern  
Children"

*How to Use Public Policy Notes*

If you're interested in advocacy, one of the most effective tools that you can have is access to information. This newsletter is provided as a service to locate and share information that we think will be helpful to you in your work at the state level and to keep you updated on what's happening in public policy.

You'll find information that:

- **Compares your state to other SECA states**—how you're doing, what issues you have in common, what the hot topics are in your states.
- **Brings the national scene to your fingertips** and gives you a perspective on how national events might impact you... You'll also receive information about where to find additional information.

We hope you'll find it helpful. Children need you to be their "voice" in your community and state.

*This monthly newsletter is produced by Glenda Bean, SECA Executive Director.*

*SECA strives to provide non-partisan and non-biased information that is of interest to early childhood educators. Sign up at*

<http://www.southernearlychildhood.org/public-policy/public-policy-notes/>

*to receive notice of its availability each month.*



**From the SECA Board and Staff**

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