



The Consortium of State School Boards Associations Weekly Education Report

JUNE 24, 2024

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The COSSBA Education Report, a weekly publication, provides an executive summary of public policy issues affecting American K-12 education and employment. **Please use the bookmarks below to navigate to your area of interest:**

1. **News, Publications, & Updates on COSSBA Policy Priorities**

• **Teacher Recruitment and Retention**

• **HELP Committee Examines Challenges Facing Public School**

Teachers: On Thursday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee hosted a hearing to examine immediate and long-term challenges facing public school teachers, including low pay, teacher shortages, and underfunded public schools.

• **Webinar: Navigating the Teacher Workforce After COVID Relief:** On Wednesday, The American Institutes for Research will hold a webinar on new data on how ESSER funding affected school district staffing and what it means going forward for teachers, students, and equity.

• **IDEA**

• **The Washington Post Assesses Disability Rights in Schools:** On Thursday, *The Washington Post* hosted an online roundtable discussion titled, “An assessment of disability rights in the U.S. schooling system.”

• **Briefing: Full Funding for IDEA:** On Tuesday, The Los Angeles Unified School District, San Diego Unified School District, The School Superintendents Association, National Center for Learning Disabilities, Council for Exceptional Children, IDEA Full Funding Coalition, and the

Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education will hold a briefing titled “Invest in Everyone: IDEA and the Importance of Full Funding.”

2. **Budget and Appropriations Wrap-up**

- **Impact on State School Board Associations**

3. **In Brief – Last Week in Washington**

- **Education Data Experts Examine Using Longitudinal Data Systems**: On June 13th, the Education Commission of the States hosted a webinar titled, “Partnering for Success: Using State Data Systems to Spur Collaboration and Improve Education.”
- **Child Welfare System Leaders Discuss Potential Improvements**: On Tuesday, the American Institute for Research held a webinar titled, “Transforming Child Welfare Systems: A Discussion with Systems Leaders.”
- **LPI Hosts Panel to Discuss Early Childhood Education Integration**: On Tuesday, the Learning Policy Institute held a webinar titled, “Fostering Integration in Early Childhood Settings: Implications for Policy.”

4. **New Publications**

- **Report on the Condition of Education 2024**
National Center for Education Statistics (May 2024)
The 2024 edition of the Condition of Education is an annual report mandated by Congress. The report summarizes the latest data on education in the United States—spanning from early childhood to postsecondary and beyond—and covers topics such as enrollment, student achievement, teacher turnover, education finances, and international comparisons.

5. **In the News**

- **Judge Blocks Biden’s Title IX Rule in Four States, Dealing a Blow to Protections for LGBTQ Students**
The Associated Press (June 13, 2024)
- **GOP Lawsuits Could Wipe Out Biden’s Education Agenda**
Politico (June 14, 2024)
- **House Republicans Advance Resolution to Block New Title IX Regs**
Inside Higher Ed (June 14, 2024)
- **Tobacco-Like Warning Label for Social Media Sought by US Surgeon General Who Asks Congress to Act**
The Associated Press (June 17, 2024)
- **Biden’s Title IX Law Expanding Protections for LGBTQ+ Students is Dealt Another Setback**
ABC News (June 17, 2024)
- **Supreme Court to Hear FCC E-Rate Case on School Reimbursements**
K-12 Dive (June 18, 2024)
- **New Law Requires All Louisiana Public School Classrooms to Display the Ten Commandments**
US News (June 19, 2024)
- **Teachers Report Lower Pay, Higher Stress Than Other Working Adults**

K-12 Dive (June 20, 2024)

6. **Weekly Calendar - What's coming up this week?**

- **Full Funding for IDEA**: The Los Angeles Unified School District, San Diego Unified School District, The School Superintendents Association, National Center for Learning Disabilities, Council for Exceptional Children, IDEA Full Funding Coalition, and the Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education will hold a briefing titled "Invest in Everyone: IDEA and the Importance of Full Funding."
Tuesday at 1pm ET
- **Advocacy Lessons to Expand Tutoring in Public Education**: FutureEd will hold a webinar on "Applying Lessons from Advocacy Research to Expand Tutoring in Public Education."
Tuesday at 1pm ET
- **House Ways and Means on Strengthening Child Welfare**: The House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on "Strengthening Child Welfare and Protecting America's Children."
Wednesday at 11am ET
- **Navigating the Teacher Workforce After COVID Relief**: The American Institutes for Research will hold a webinar on new data on how ESSER funding affected school district staffing and what it means going forward for teachers, students, and equity.
Wednesday at 1pm ET
- **House Education Committee Showcase on AI in Education**: The Committee on Education and the Workforce will hold a showcase titled "A.I. in Education." The event will feature businesses from across the country that have utilized artificial intelligence (A.I.) to enhance education for all students.
Wednesday at 3pm ET
- **House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup of FY25 Labor-HHS, Education Bill**: The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a markup of the FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill.
Thursday at 8am ET

7. **Future Hearings & Events**

- **House Appropriations Markup of FY25 Labor-HHS, T-HUD, Ag-FDA Bill**: The House Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill; the FY2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill; and the FY2025 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill.
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8. **On The Floor of Congress This Week**

- **Senate floor**: In recess
- **House floor**:

- **H.R. 8752** – Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2025 (Sponsored by Rep. Amodei / Appropriations Committee)
- **H.R. 8771** – Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2025 (Sponsored by Rep. Diaz-Balart / Appropriations Committee)
- **H.R. 8774** – Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025 (Sponsored by Rep. Calvert / Appropriations Committee)

9. **Important U.S. House and Senate Links**

10. **About BPAG**

1. COSSBA Policy Priorities

TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

HELP COMMITTEE EXAMINES CHALLENGES FACING PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

On Thursday, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee hosted [a hearing](#) “on an issue of enormous consequence,” according to Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT). The hearing examined immediate and long-term challenges facing public school teachers, including low pay, teacher shortages, and underfunded public schools. In his opening remarks, Senator Sanders said the hearing gave Committee members the opportunity to “hear directly from educators from across our country about the enormous effort it takes to provide a quality public education for every child in our country.” He asserted that quality education for all is key to a “bright and hopeful future for our country,” but argued that, for decades, teachers “have been overworked, underpaid, understaffed, and maybe most importantly, underappreciated.” He pointed to alarming retention rates in the teaching profession, as well as the 300,000 teaching positions that are vacant or filled by teachers not fully certified for their assignments. Ranking Member Bill Cassidy (R-LA) acknowledged the importance of teachers, particularly for students with learning disabilities like his own Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD). He went on to say, that a discussion of the state of K-12 education must recognize that two-thirds of US public school students do not read proficiently in fourth grade, and almost two-thirds of fourth graders, and three-quarters of eighth graders are below proficient in math. Teachers on the witness panel emphasized chronic low pay in the profession. John Arthur, the 2021 Utah Teacher of the Year and a national board-certified teacher, argued that teachers in the United States deserve higher pay, prestige, and respect, akin to that of doctors and lawyers. Likewise, Gemayel Keyes, an educator and member of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, highlighted the challenges faced by paraprofessionals, who earn modest salaries while playing essential roles in supporting students with disabilities. Other witnesses pointed to the critical need for more resources in addition to increased pay. William Kirwan, a member of Maryland’s Accountability and Implementation Board, detailed the state’s “Blueprint for Maryland’s Future,” a legislative measure that outlines a multi-year plan to address all facets of education, including recruitment and retention. Robert Pondiscio, a senior fellow for the American Enterprise Institute, said that while higher pay is important, it alone will not resolve the core issues plaguing the teaching profession and advocated for improving teacher preparation, classroom conditions, and curricula. Lastly, Nicole Neily, president and founder of Parents Defending Education, criticized schools that spend excessive resources on administrative and DEI positions, rather than directly on student education and support and called for a refined focus on effective teaching and learning,

rather than “pre-election rhetoric.” Witness written testimony and a recording of Thursday’s hearing [is here](#). A full summary of the hearing prepared by BPAG [is here](#).

WEBINAR: NAVIATING THE TEACHER WORKFORCE AFTER COVID RELIEF

On Wednesday, The American Institutes for Research will hold a webinar on new data on how ESSER funding affected school district staffing and what it means going forward for teachers, students, and equity.

IDEA

THE WASHINGTON POST ASSESSES DISABILITY RIGHTS IN SCHOOLS

On Thursday, *The Washington Post* hosted an [online roundtable discussion](#) titled, “An assessment of disability rights in the U.S. schooling system.” The discussion featured US Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, in addition to Rebecca Cokely, program officer for US Disability Rights at the Ford Foundation; Becky Pringle, National Education Association (NEA) President; and Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO of the National Center for Learning Disabilities. Secretary Cardona opened by calling attention to the teacher shortage presently impacting US public schools, particularly within special education. Cardona asserted that the teacher retention rate is decreasing due to a lack of salary increases, sub-par professional working conditions, career burnout, and a lack of respect for the profession. When asked what the Department of Education is doing to help mitigate teacher shortages, Cardona pointed to the Biden-Harris Administration’s nearly \$2.7 billion [investment](#) in teacher quality programs across the United States. With a focus on special education teachers, he stressed that investment should come from all angles – local, state, and federal – and voiced that investments should prioritize hiring permanent teachers, rather than temporary or substitute teachers. Pringle’s remarks mirrored those of Secretary Cardona, and she cited an NEA study finding that [55 percent of current educators](#) plan to leave the profession. When asked how the NEA is helping solve this crisis, Pringle stated that the NEA is partnering with other organizations, such as the Ford Foundation, as well as the Biden Administration to provide more resources to help recruit and retain special education teachers. Pringle also underscored loan forgiveness options for educators as an avenue for recruitment. Rodriguez and Cokely further examined resources that special education teachers need to be successful. Cokely recognized that the pandemic disproportionately affected students with disabilities and acknowledged that equal access and opportunity post-pandemic is an increased challenge public schools are working to overcome. Despite Americans with Disabilities Act protections, Rodriguez and Cokely affirmed that more resources are needed and that public schools should be hyper-focused on ensuring a quality education for students with disabilities. The members of the roundtable agreed on the need for more educator workforce investment with a refined focus on those that specialize in teaching students with learning disabilities.

BRIEFING: FULL FUNDING FOR IDEA

On Tuesday, The Los Angeles Unified School District, San Diego Unified School District, the School Superintendents Association, National Center for Learning Disabilities, Council for Exceptional Children, IDEA Full Funding Coalition, and the Coalition for Adequate Funding for

Special Education will hold a briefing titled Invest in Everyone: IDEA and the Importance of Full Funding.

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2. Budget and Appropriations Wrap-Up

The House was in recess last week while the Senate was in session; this week, the opposite is true. As a result, there wasn't much progress on Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 appropriations since the House is currently driving that process. This week, the House Appropriations Committee will continue marking up bills, according to [the schedule](#) outlined by Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) in May.

There is evidence that the Senate is already preparing to counter presumed House-proposed cuts. The Senate Appropriations Committee Democrats issued [a fact sheet](#) about the impact of the spending caps on non-defense funding and calling for parity in any increases for defense and non-defense spending. Senate spending subcommittees held hearings last week to examine agency priorities, and Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) could set allocations in July. All this activity is taking place with the assumption that final FY 2025 spending will not be resolved until after the November elections, and maybe not until early next year.

Of course, with the August recess and campaigning ahead of the November elections minimizing the legislative calendar, whether either bill would make any progress is an open question. Regardless, advocates will be busy.

How does this impact State School Board Associations?

The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education spending bill is scheduled for action on Thursday, June 27th. In recent years, action on the controversial bill has been repeatedly rescheduled, so the advocacy community will be watching for delays. If the Subcommittee does mark up the bill, the community expects the panel to propose troubling cuts to education and other important domestic investments.

As mentioned earlier, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee has been active. Last week, they held [a hearing](#) on a number of K-12 education issues, although the conversation focused quite a bit on supporting teachers. An in brief of the hearing and a full summary prepared by BPAG [is above](#). It has been rumored that the hearing could be a precursor to a K-12 education bill from Chairman Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

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3. In Brief – Last Week in Washington

EDUCATION DATA EXPERTS EXAMINE USING LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEMS

On June 13th, the Education Commission of the States hosted a [webinar](#) titled, “Partnering for Success: Using State Data Systems to Spur Collaboration and Improve Education.” The event featured Claus von Zastrow, senior director of policy and programs for the Education Commission of the States; Jose Munoz, Education Commission of the States President; Katrina Miller, director of educational partnerships at S.A.S US Government and Education Practice; Ross Goldstein, executive director of Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center; and Trip

Stallings, executive director of North Carolina Longitudinal Data Service. A Longitudinal Data System (LDS), or a State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS), combines data across different agencies or governmental departments to create one central place for data – specifically for education. The SLDS is a public service in many aspects, as it allows for data to be consolidated in one place from each education agency that opts into the program. An LDS, or SLDS, fosters cross-agency transparency of their respective data and reduces information sharing silos; they are particularly helpful when dealing with educational data between schools, districts, counties, and states. Miller broached the subject of how AI systems, such as ChatGPT, will affect LDS in the future, and in response, Stallings emphasized data quality, saying that being a steward of good data is the ability to maintain good data. He continued that while AI can be useful, when educators, school districts, regular citizens, and policymakers need reliable data, that is where the LDS comes into play. Stallings shared how other states, such as Kentucky, Washington, Michigan, and others, have different SLDS models – In Kentucky for example, the LDS within the state houses a collaborative data record system that integrates data from five educational agencies, which helps to provide expansive data on education and workforce, as well as essential statistics that are used to make valuable agency decisions. Both Stallings and Goldstein conveyed the benefits of an LDS, as it serves as a collective source for educational data that provides for better decision-making by educators, policymakers, and the public.

CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM LEADERS DISCUSS POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

On Tuesday, the American Institute for Research (AIR) held a webinar titled, “Transforming Child Welfare Systems: A Discussion with Systems Leaders.” The event featured a panel of child welfare experts – Christine Tappan, chief of Community Based Services and Advancement for Ascentria Care Alliance; Uma Ahluwalia, managing principal of Health Management Associates (HMA); Bobby Cagle, CEO of Cagle Consulting; and Brandy Farrar, AIR managing director. Farrar opened the discussion by highlighting the significant challenges facing child welfare systems, including high workforce turnover, limited resources, and the disproportionate representation of children and families of color. To address these issues, the panelists shared strategies for transforming the child welfare system to make it more equitable. Tappan, Ahluwalia, and Cagle all discussed the importance of engaging stakeholders and organizations. Underscoring the need for a multi-system response, Ahluwalia specifically emphasized the critical support required in the educational, behavioral, and mental health fields. She also stressed the necessity of staff reflecting the community’s diversity and values to improve access and outcomes for all, highlighting the crucial role this plays in achieving racial equity. In addition, Tappan and Cagle illuminated the value of Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSRs) in ensuring data collection, monitoring service delivery, and serving as a quality improvement framework to address significant systemic issues. Cagle concluded the webinar by discussing the potential of class action litigation to drive sustainable change, citing its effectiveness in transforming Los Angeles County’s behavioral health assessments and providing essential wraparound services that were previously unavailable.

LPI HOSTS PANEL TO DISCUSS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INTEGRATION

On Tuesday, the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) held a webinar titled, “Fostering Integration in Early Childhood Settings: Implications for Policy.” The event featured a panel of early education experts - Sara Plasencia, LPI Policy Advisor; Miriam Calderon, Zero to Three Chief Policy Officer; Bernadine Futrell, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education; Martha Lee, senior director of early childhood for the Educational

Alliance at the Manny Cantor Center; Shantel Meek, founding executive director of the Children’s Equity Project; and Casey Stockstill, an assistant professor at Dartmouth College. Plasencia presented findings from an LPI [study](#) revealing that nearly half of Black and Latino children are taught in racially isolated schools where 90 percent are students of color. She emphasized the benefits of early childhood integration, including enhanced reading growth, improved math outcomes, language development, and reduced prejudice. In addition, the study proposed five strategies to promote integration: establishing universal programs, braiding public funding, allowing tuition-paying families to enroll in public programs, attracting families across neighborhoods or boundaries, and creating two-way dual language immersion programs. During the panel discussion, Lee shared insights from her program, emphasizing the benefits of classrooms that mirror community diversity and intentionally support cross-cultural interactions. The panelists also addressed operational challenges, particularly the complexity of aligning different funding streams. They advocated for collaboration among funding sources to create a cohesive framework that integrates their varied requirements, standards, and protocols. Calderon concluded the webinar by underscoring the critical need for a coordinated enrollment infrastructure and streamlined policies that adequately fund early childhood education. These measures, she stressed, are essential to support a diverse workforce and promote equitable family engagement in early childhood settings. A recording will be posted [here](#).

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4. New Publications

Report on the Condition of Education 2024

National Center for Education Statistics (May 2024)

The 2024 edition of the Condition of Education is an annual report mandated by Congress. The report summarizes the latest data on education in the United States—spanning from early childhood to postsecondary and beyond—and covers topics such as enrollment, student achievement, teacher turnover, education finances, and international comparisons.

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5. In the News

Judge Blocks Biden’s Title IX Rule In Four States, Dealing A Blow To Protections For LGBTQ+ Students

The Associated Press (June 13, 2024)

GOP Lawsuits Could Wipe Out Biden’s Education Agenda

Politico (June 14, 2024)

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Inside Higher Ed (June 14, 2024)

Tobacco-Like Warning Label for Social Media Sought by US Surgeon General Who Asks Congress to Act

The Associated Press (June 17, 2024)

Biden's Title IX Law Expanding Protections For LGBTQ+ Students Is Dealt Another Setback

ABC News (June 17, 2024)

Supreme Court to Hear FCC E-Rate Case on School Reimbursements

K-12 Dive (June 18, 2024)

New Law Requires All Louisiana Public School Classrooms to Display the Ten Commandments

US News (June 19, 2024)

Teachers Report Lower Pay, Higher Stress Than Other Working Adults

K-12 Dive (June 20, 2024)

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

6. Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Briefing: Full Funding for IDEA

Subject: The Los Angeles Unified School District, San Diego Unified School District, The School Superintendents Association, National Center for Learning Disabilities, Council for Exceptional Children, IDEA Full Funding Coalition, and the Coalition for Adequate Funding for Special Education will hold a briefing titled Invest in Everyone: IDEA and the Importance of Full Funding.

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Webinar: Advocacy Lessons to Expand Tutoring in Public Education

Subject: FutureEd will hold a webinar on “Applying Lessons from Advocacy Research to Expand Tutoring in Public Education.”

Participants: Liz Cohen, policy director, FutureEd (Moderator); Susanna Loeb, professor, Stanford University; Paula White, executive director, JerseyCAN; Chelsea Crawford, executive director, TennesseeCAN; and Marc Port McGee, CEO, 50CAN.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Hearing: House Ways and Means on Strengthening Child Welfare

Subject: The House Ways and Means Committee will hold a hearing on "Strengthening Child Welfare and Protecting America's Children."

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Registration: Live stream available [here](#).

Webinar: Navigating the Teacher Workforce After COVID Relief

Subject: The American Institutes for Research (AIR) will hold a webinar on new data on how ESSER funding affected school district staffing and what it means going forward for teachers, students, and equity.

Participants: Dan Goldhaber, director, Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research, American Institutes for Research.

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Registration: Register [here](#).

Committee Showcase: House Education Committee Showcase on AI in Education

Subject: The Committee on Education and the Workforce will hold a showcase titled “A.I. in Education.” The event will feature businesses from across the country that have utilized artificial intelligence to enhance education for all students.

Time and Location: 3:00 p.m.; 390 Cannon HOB.

Registration: More information [here](#).

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Markup: House Appropriations Subcommittee Markup of FY25 Labor-HHS, Education Bill

Subject: The House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Subcommittee will hold a markup of the FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill.

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Registration: Live stream available [here](#).

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7. Future Hearings and Events

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Markup: House Appropriations Markup of FY25 Labor-HHS, T-HUD, AG-FDA Bill

Subject: The House Appropriations Committee will hold a markup of the FY2025 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill; the FY2025 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill; and the FY2025 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill.

Time: TBD

Registration: Live stream available [here](#).

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8. On The Floor of Congress This Week

Senate Floor: In recess.

House Floor:

- [H.R. 8752](#) – Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2025 (*Sponsored by Rep. Amodei / Appropriations Committee*)

- [H.R. 8771](#) – Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2025 (*Sponsored by Rep. Diaz-Balart / Appropriations Committee*)
- [H.R. 8774](#) – Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2025 (*Sponsored by Rep. Calvert / Appropriations Committee*)

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9. Links for Up-to-Date Information on Hearings, Legislation, and Events

[U.S. House and Senate 2024 Schedule](#)

[U.S. Department of Education](#)

[U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions](#)

[U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor](#)

[U.S. Senate Budget Committee](#)

[U.S. House Budget Committee](#)

[Congressional Budget Office](#)

[Federal legislative information](#)

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10. About BPAG

Bose Public Affairs Group is a full-service government affairs and public relations consulting firm that has built a reputation for producing results. We partner with clients committed to excellence in education and other social services to achieve policy and advocacy success by:

- leveraging our expertise and passion;
- strategizing intelligent solutions; and,
- Creating meaningful impact.

Our team includes long-term insiders in education policy from Pre-K through higher education, innovative thinkers and savvy strategists that provide a comprehensive array of customized client services. We have the knowledge, skills, and relationships that are necessary for successful advocacy at all levels. From grassroots to grass tops and everything in between, our broad-based legislative practice approaches every project with the same degree of determination and professionalism. BPAG provides expertise in a variety of services:

- Government Relations
- Research and Analysis
- Advocacy Training
- Association Management
- Strategic Communications
- Policy Events

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

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