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Subject: More Money for Transportation and/or Reserves

Quick heads-up on some federal action today--

Today, Congress sent H.R. 933 to the President's desk - it's a new continuing resolution for the remainder of the current federal fiscal year, which ends September 30th. It's just about a foregone conclusion that he'll sign it in the immediate future.

The bill includes language (Section 1514) that will prevent South Carolina from continuing to lose \$36,202,909 annually in special education (IDEA) funding due to the state's reduced commitment to the program back in FY 2009-10. We proposed to use non-recurring state money (tobacco settlement) in our FY 2013-14 budget proposal to make school districts whole.

If the President signs the new CR, then this won't be necessary in FY 2013-14, meaning that the Senate Finance Committee will now have that much more money to spend when they take-up the budget. As soon as the new CR is signed, it would be fair game to do another event (or probably just a new press release) reminding appropriators how that \$36.2M should be used, if you'd like to follow-up like that.

As a final note, Superintendent Zais has a hearing tomorrow in the U.S. 4th Circuit on this same subject, but that's more of a process argument over whether or not he's even allowed to appeal the U.S. Department of Education's refusal to waive the \$36.2M "penalty" last year. So that case will continue.

CLS

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