On June 18-21 TESOL International held the 2016 TESOL Advocacy and Policy Summit in Washington DC. Kat Bradley-Bennett and Elizabeth Schroeder, Socio-political Liaisons, represented the Colorado affiliate, CoTESOL.

The Summit included two days of education about current issues, bills and acts important to the work of ESL teachers and students. On the third day, Kat and Elizabeth went to the Hill to represent Colorado’s K-12, higher education and adult education interests with each of Colorado’s nine legislators. (Colorado has seven congressional districts and two senators.)

TESOL and CoTESOL expressed their support of the following:

**Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)**

**Issues discussed:** WIOA outcomes seem disconnected to the purposes and to those whom Title II is meant to serve. Program staff in Colorado are doing their due diligence to adapt and be proactive to meet the new requirements, but there is still concerned that many students (for whom employment is not their primary goal) will not be able to receive services from AEFLA-funded programs. This includes students in family literacy programs, those seeking citizenship/residency, and those out of the workforce.

https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/Overview.cfm


**Ask to the Representatives:** To co-sponsor the following two bills:

1) **H.R. 4643 - (FLUENT) Families Learning and Understanding English Together Act of 2016** - Introduced by Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) This bill authorizes the Department of Education (ED) to make grants to providers of family literacy services in order to improve the literacy and English skills of individuals who are parents or children in families where each parent is at least age 16 and at least one child is under age 8.

2) **H.R. 2794 - (SUCCEED) Strengthen and Unite Communities with Civics Education and English Development Act of 2015** - Introduced by Rep. Mike Honda (D-CA)

- This bill would (1) award grants to states for integrated English literacy, U.S. history, and civics education programs; and (2) expand certain federally funded adult education and literacy activities to include such programs;
- The bill establishes the Office of Citizenship and Immigrant Integration to form national goals, assess and coordinate policies, and assist with other efforts related to new Americans;
- The bill establishes a tax credit for employer-provided adult English literacy and basic education programs; and
- The bill establishes both the Presidential Award for Business Leadership in Promoting United States Citizenship to recognize businesses and other organizations, and a citizen award program to recognize naturalized citizens who have made an outstanding contribution to the United States.

**Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**
**Issues discussed:** Congress did great work in updating NCLB. There are concerns, however, about the challenges with ESSA as planning proceeds in FY17 and implementation in FY18. As SEAs and LEAs will have much more local control in ESSA, clarification is still needed to determine how Title III and Title I funding will support services and accountability. (Much of NCLB Title 1 EL services were shifted to Title III of ESSA, and standards and accountability are now in ESSA Title I.)

**Ask:** To support President Obama’s request of $800 million for Title III of ESSA and support increased investment in Title II of ESSA as well so teachers can receive high-quality professional development.

**H.R. 4541 - (STAPLER)**

Save Teachers of Adults from Paying out of Their Livelihood for Education Resources Act of 2016 - Introduced by Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA)  *This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to include individuals who provide adult education for at least 250 hours in a taxable year in the definition of “eligible educator” for purposes of the $250 tax deduction allowed to such educators for their education-related costs.*

**Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)/Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA)**

Though beyond control of Congress, CoTESOL expressed hope that the Supreme Court decision on DACA/DAPA would be favorable for immigrant families in the US.

United States: Unauthorized Population 11,022,000 and ~ 5 million are eligible for DACA/DAPA
- DACA (~1.2 million eligible) Children under 16 year old upon arrival and brought before June 15, 2007
- DACA+ (~275k eligible) Expansion to children brought to U.S. before Jan. 1, 2010
- DAPA (~3.6 million eligible) Parents of legal citizens/residents on 11/20/2014 and in U.S. since 1/1/2010

COLORADO: Unauthorized Population 164,000 and 62% whom are eligible for DACA/DAPA
- DACA childhood arrivals (2012) 19,000 12%
- DACA + childhood arrivals (2012 + 2014 expansions) 22,000 13%
- DAPA parents of U.S. citizens or LPRs (DAPA) 62,000 38%

**Update:** On June 23, it was announced that SCOTUS’ decision on U.S. vs. Texas split 4-4, halting DACA/DAPA implementation this year. This is not a rejection of the President’s executive action on immigration reform; it’s a non-decision. The 5th Circuit Appeals Court decision remains for now. A request for a re-hearing has been filed, which will be decided upon by the SCOTUS within two weeks.

Also noteworthy is that in March, Senator Michael Bennet and Representatives Diana DeGette, Jared Polis, and Ed Perlmutter were among 39 Senators and 189 House Representatives who signed an *amicus brief* in support of DACA and DAPA.

If you are interested in contacting your representative on any of the issues above, here is the contact information for the person with whom we met:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Michael Bennet</td>
<td>D</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rocio_Rodarte@bennet.senate.gov">Rocio_Rodarte@bennet.senate.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 224-5852</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sen. Cory Gardner</td>
<td>R</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alison_Tool@gardner.senate.gov">Alison_Tool@gardner.senate.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 224-5941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Ken Buck</td>
<td>R-4</td>
<td><a href="mailto:James.Hampson@mail.house.gov">James.Hampson@mail.house.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 225-4676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Mike Coffman</td>
<td>R-6</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Jeremy.Lippert@mail.house.gov">Jeremy.Lippert@mail.house.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 225-7882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressmen</td>
<td>District</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>Phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Doug Lamborn</td>
<td>R-5</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov">Brandon.Miller@mail.house.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 225-4422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Diana DeGette</td>
<td>D-1</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Matthew.Allen@mail.house.gov">Matthew.Allen@mail.house.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 225-4431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Ed Perlmutter</td>
<td>D-7</td>
<td></td>
<td>(303) 274-7944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Jared Polis</td>
<td>D-2</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Bo.Morris@mail.house.gov">Bo.Morris@mail.house.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 225-2161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. Scott Tipton</td>
<td>R-3</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Melissa.Graeff@mail.house.gov">Melissa.Graeff@mail.house.gov</a></td>
<td>(202) 225-4761</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CoTESOL [http://www.cotesol.org/index.html](http://www.cotesol.org/index.html)

Contact Kat Bradley-Bennett at [katpbennett@gmail.com](mailto:katpbennett@gmail.com)
Contact Elizabeth Schroeder at [es Schroeder@gmail.com](mailto:es Schroeder@gmail.com)