



# **Federal Advocacy and your role as a Leader**

**MASE New Leaders Training**

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# MASE Federal Advocacy Committee

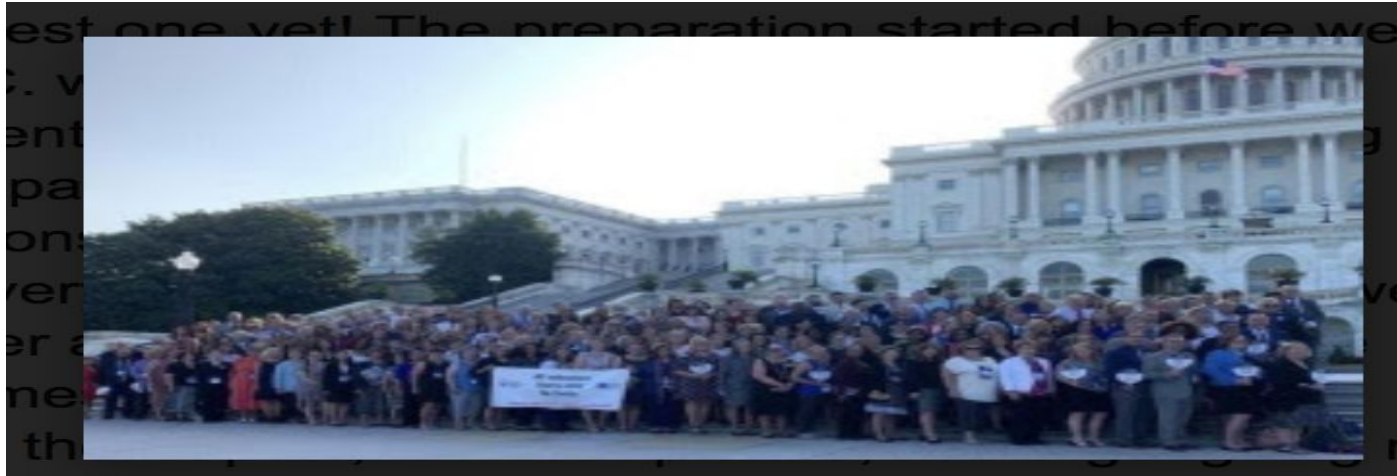
In the Fall of 2012 the Federal Advocacy Committee was officially formed

This committee, chaired by the President-Elect, is charged with developing an annual federal legislative platform for approval by the board. Additionally, the committee will respond to proposed legislation, regulation and/or rules at the federal level.

Beginning 2021-22 This Committee will become a subcommittee of the Legislative Committee

# MASE Federal Advocacy Goal

Increase knowledge of our members to communicate on a federal level and increase knowledge of changes to IDEA so that MASE can build consensus on how to respond.



Legislative Summit Washington DC July 2019

## Core Leadership Competencies for licensure Director of Special Education

### A. Leadership by:

- ((7) serving as a spokesperson for the welfare of all learners in a multicultural context;
- (8) understanding how education is impacted by local, state, national, and international events;
- (9) demonstrating the ability to facilitate and motivate others; and
- (10) demonstrating the ability to implement change or educational reform;

## Competencies cont...

### **E. Political influence and governance by:**

- (1) exhibiting an understanding of school districts as a political system, including governance models;
- (2) demonstrating the ability to involve stakeholders in the development of educational policy;
- (3) understanding the role and coordination of social agencies and human services; and
- (4) demonstrating the ability to align constituencies in support of priorities and build coalitions for programmatic and financial support;

# Defining Advocacy and Your Why

- Improve Public Service
  - system that is being challenged or advocated for-rather than an individual.
  - the goal is to change policy and practice at a certain governmental level, whether local, national or international. ( Insert link?)
- Hold Elected Officials Accountable
- Mobilize a Cause
- To Give Voice to those who cannot protect themselves
- If we don't tell our story, someone else will or they will make inaccurate assumptions!

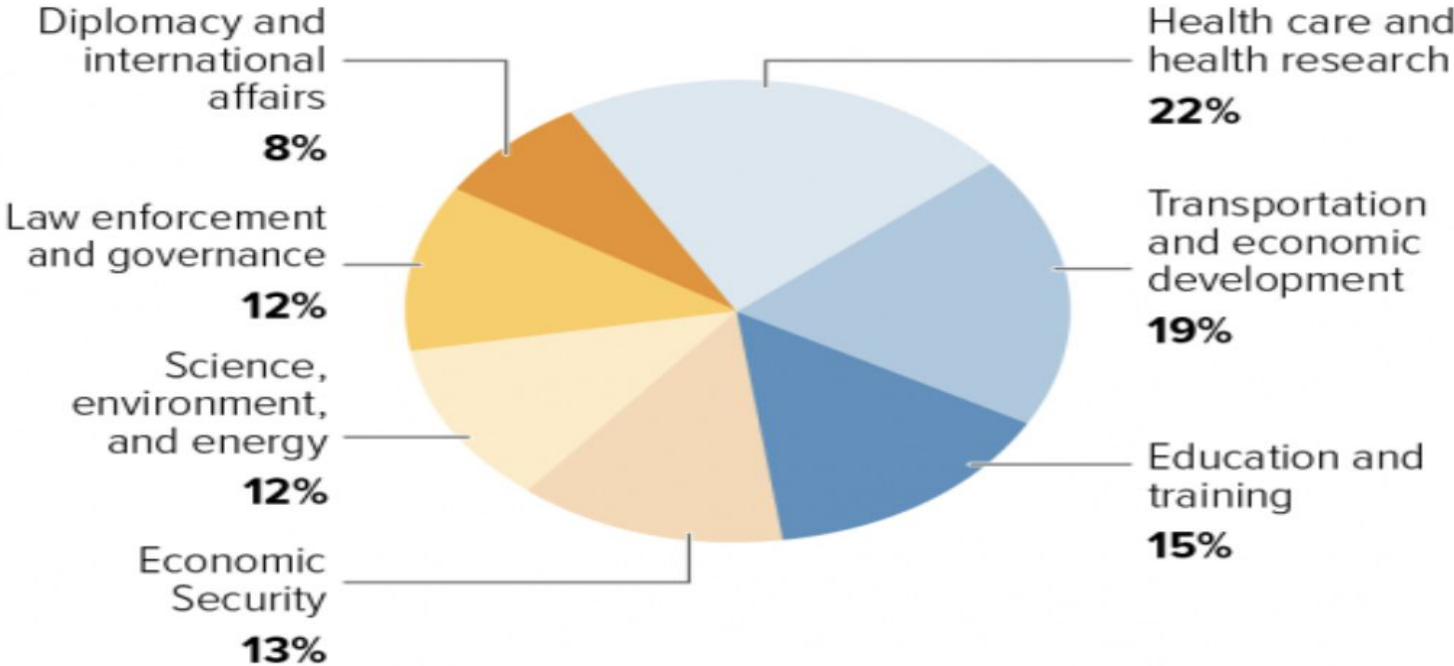
# Advocacy = Relationships



- Build relationships over time- not just when we need something
- You are the **Expert** in the field of Special Education
- You are an important constituent
- Offer to be a resource
  - If you do not know the answer you can find the answer!
  - Your role is to take complex topics/information and communicate them in an understandable way
  - Invite a Representative or Senator to visit
  - Tell your story

# Understand the Big Picture

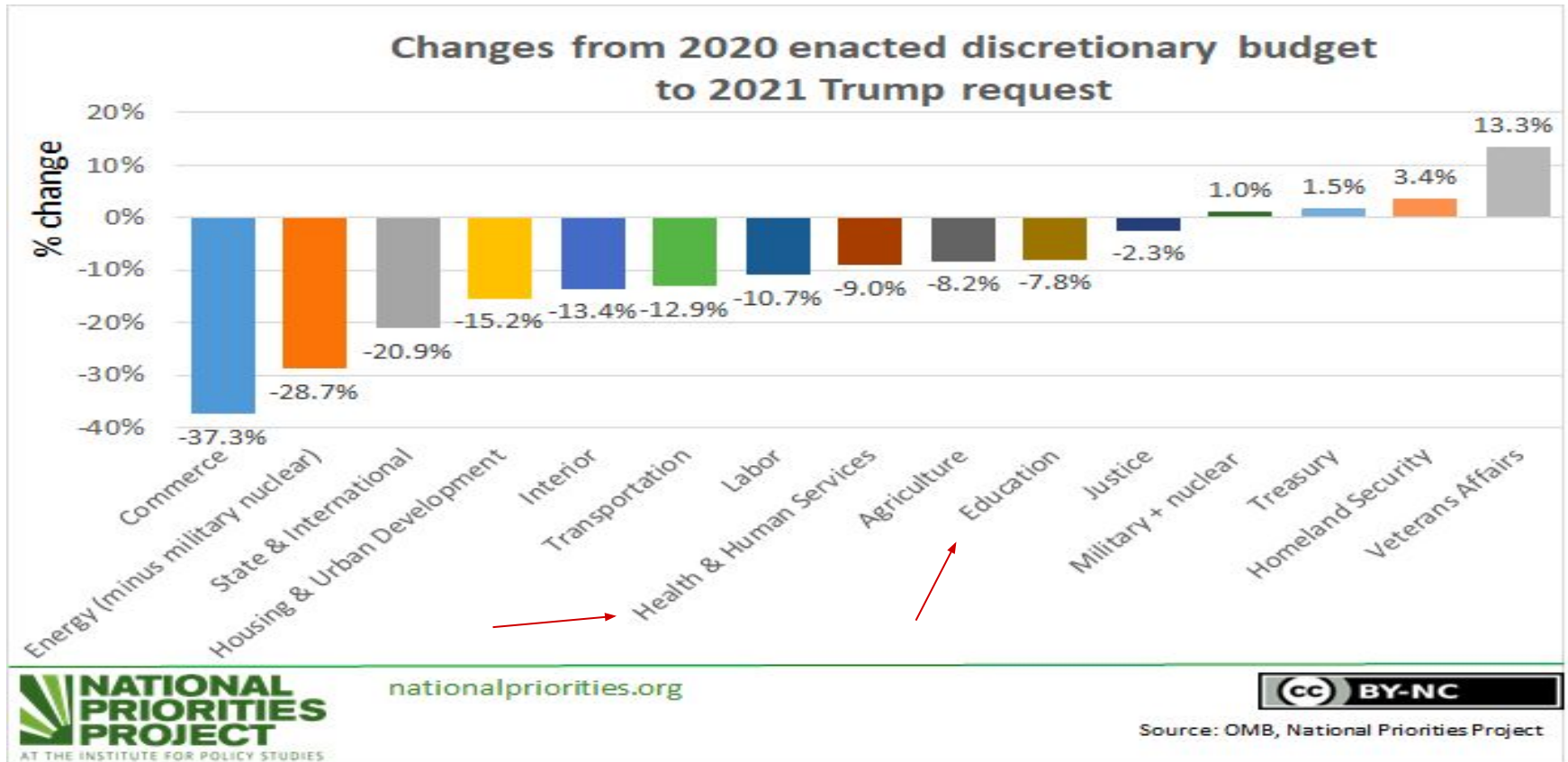
## Non-Defense Discretionary Spending, FY 2019



Source: CBPP calculations using Office of Management and Budget data



# Agency Connections



## CASE Platform ( 2019-20)

- **Oppose Publicly Funded Subsidies of Private Education** ( [CASE Policy](#) [Issue Brief](#))
- **Support Access to Mental Health Services**
- Support Early Childhood Education
- Prevent Bullying and Harassment by Enhancing Social-Emotional Learning Opportunities
- Reform Dispute Resolution Procedures
- Support Development of Seclusion and Restraint Regulations ([CASE Policy](#))
- Support High Quality Preparation for all Educators
- **Address Chronic Educator Shortages in Special Education** ([CASE Policy](#), [OSEP Teacher Shortage Blog](#))
- Change Improve Maintenance of Effort Requirements (MOE)
- Maintain Access to School-Based Medicaid
- Fund Education and IDEA line items appropriately
- Address Disproportionality but Allow Greater Flexibility with Comprehensive Coordinated Early Intervening Services

## MASE 2020-2021 Legislative Platform

- **Increase Educational Efficiency**
  - supports a district's ability to set criteria to close a program, such as Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) and Transition (Age 18-21) year old programming, to open enrollment
  - supports the ability of school districts to receive MA reimbursement without having to complete Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS) requirements in alignment with other billable related services supports local control over due process paperwork forms systems. 4. MASE endorses any efforts by the MDE to reduce due process paperwork.
  - ***Recruit and Retain Qualified Teachers***
  - supports pro-actively addressing current and future demands of districts for qualified, licensed special education professionals and administrators.
- **Equitable and Sustainable Funding Systems**
  - supports a single special education formula
  - MASE supports revamping tuition billing
  - ***supports public funds remaining in public education***

## Prepare and Get involved

- Read, Listen, Follow on Twitter, etc.
- Locally Join MASE Legislative Committee Materials and Participation
- MASE Federal Advocacy Committee Participation
- [CASE Action Center](#)
- Review documents- MASE Newsletters, Legislative Platform, MASA
- Get to know who your Representatives
- Attend MASE Day at the Capitol
- Develop your local story- You are the Expert in the Room!
- Federal - CEC/CASE membership
- Attend CEC/CASE July Legislative Summit- Virtual option 2021?



# Create a Passionate and Data Driven Story

- Short 1 to 2 minute brief “elevator speech” if visiting with a Representative, Congress member, staffer, etc.
- Written Communication- Letters to Representatives.
- Use Data: proven and expected outcomes for children and youth with exceptionalities and the professionals who work on their behalf
  - IE: Cross subsidy impact on services for All students.
- Share the impact special education and early intervention has on children and youth with exceptionalities.

# You are the Expert!

## Top Ten TIPS

1. A "Hook": open your "pitch" by getting the members attention
2. Passion: deliver your message with energy and dedication
3. Share CEC Legislative Recommendation
4. Data Matters: Offer "good" and "bad data" you prepared, establish you are a credible resource and a "go to person" for the future.
5. Personal: share your connection and how you have worked to develop solutions to policy issue.
6. Relevant and Accessible: keep message jargon free, why it is important to the State, District and Members Constituents
7. Necessary Resolution: What are the broader implications of your story? Articulate how federal policy can make a difference
8. Connection to Policy: end by circling back to repeat the legislative recommendation on the issue and as Member of Congress their position on the issue.
9. CEC Legislative Recommendation: Share again
10. Commitment from Member: Ask your Member for a Commitment, be a good listener,

Thank your member of Congress and Leave the door open for the future.

## [Insights to Federal Advocacy](#)



“A change is brought about because ordinary people do extraordinary things.”

Barack Obama



# Resources

## CEC/CASE

- [Legislative Action Center](#)
  - Engagement alerts
  - Look up elected officials by entering zip code
  - Special Ed Policy - Issues Page
- Legislative Summit
- SmartBrief - sign up for email brief

- **MASA:** Legislative Platform-<https://www.mnasa.org/>
- **AASA:** Legislative Platform

**MASE:** Legislative Resources and Platform

<https://www.mnase.org/uploads/4/7/7/9/4779316>

[3/mase\\_brochure2019-oct\\_31.pdf](#) ( Will be

updated in January, 2021