



WASHINGTON, DC UPDATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2023

1. SPEAKER JOHNSON SAYS STOPGAP FUNDING BILL NEEDED

Newly-elected Speaker of the House Mike Johnson has [signaled his support](#) for a continuing resolution to fund the federal government until January 15 or April 15, 2024.

- **Where it stands:** The current continuing resolution expires on November 17, and an extension is needed to avert a federal government shutdown.
- **Why it matters:** A shutdown could wreak havoc with holiday/end-of-year travel and halt federal government support for events (speakers, international attendee recruitment, etc.).

ECA continues to support inclusion of the industry's top priorities in government-funding legislation, but recognizes that this new timeframe will delay the pace of potential progress on Capitol Hill.

2. ECA-SUPPORTED WORKFORCE BILL GETS HOUSE HEARING

The House Ways & Means Committee recently held a hearing focused on [expanding the scope](#) of 529 college savings plans through the ECA-supported *Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act*.

- **The big picture:** That legislation would allow 529 plans to cover the costs for obtaining or maintaining postsecondary credentials.
- **In their own words:** The Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition said the bill would help "students and workers—with or without a college degree—who pursue career growth, mid-career changes or career pathways that diverge from a typical academic degree."

ECA will continue to advocate for the *Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow's Workforce Act* and support the important work of the ASAE-led [Tomorrow's Workforce Coalition](#).

3. ECA ESTABLISHES NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP WITH IFES

At last week's UFI Global Congress in Las Vegas, ECA signed a memorandum of understanding with the [International Federation of Exhibition and Event Services](#) (IFES).

- **By the numbers:** IFES has 280 national associations and individual company members around the world and partnerships with IAEE, UFI, and the European Exhibition Industry Alliance.
- **Go deeper:** ECA looks forward to collaborating with IFES on education for the industry around key issues, including in-person and online programs.

4. IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

- IAVM [blogged](#) about the recent amicus brief, signed by IAVM and ECA, seeking to overturn a federal court decision that could raise music licensing rates.
- The UFI Global Congress included ECA as part of an [advocacy panel](#): "Spotlight on Advocacy: Global Voices of the Industry. Local Impact for Our Community."
- Axios [wrote about](#) the quality of ChatGPT-written phishing emails, which could have a profound impact on email scams that prey on our industry.
- The EXHIBITOR Now Association Focus [podcast](#) features the latest ECA advocacy updates.