



AFT-West Virginia 2018 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Friday, January 19, 2018

A message from the President

This winter has been cold, and it's just as cold in this building. Like you, I'm frustrated by the lack of an adequate pay raise bill, and appalled at several bills being introduced this legislative session. Many of these bills are a direct attack on teachers, service personnel and public employees. At a time when teacher vacancies and unfilled state government jobs increase every year, these initiatives by the legislative leadership will only drive more people out of West Virginia.

Inadequate pay, erosion of employee rights and benefits won't create jobs, improve educational outcomes or provide vital services West Virginians deserve.

We are here, working at the Capitol every day to fight these attacks, and the thing that keeps us going is your activism! Your phone calls, emails and visits to the Capitol definitely have their attention. They are your elected representatives and need to be held accountable for their actions.

I share your anger and frustration, and I commend your call for action. Many of you have expressed a desire to strike. To walk away from your job is a bold action that should only be done as a last resort, armed with solidarity, coordination and a clear understanding of the risks and potential rewards.

If our efforts to address these concerns fail and our members democratically vote to take that action, AFT-WV will lead the effort.

With our AFL-CIO union brothers and sisters, join us for a live-streamed, press conference at the Culture Center Wednesday, January 24th to tell those who are driving these attacks on working families that Enough is Enough!

Christine Campbell
President, AFT-WV



AFT-WV President Christine Campbell appeared on The WV Capitol Report this week and discussed salaries, PEIA and legislative attacks on worker's rights. [Click here to watch the show.](#)



Randi Weingarten ✓
@rweingarten

Educators are the glue in so many West Virginian communities yet the state treats them terribly. The 1% pay proposal is an insult... you can do better #GovJustice : Senator warns of possible teacher strike wvnews.com/news/wvnews/se... via @WVNews247

1/18/18, 8:22 AM

The frustration of employees is finally garnering the attention of legislators and the media. AFT National President Randi Weingarten stands in solidarity with us and tweeted her support for our issues.



AFT-West Virginia
Christine Campbell, President
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Numerous bills have been introduced that attack the rights of employees and public education funding.

AFT-WV opposes all legislation that defunds public education and attacks worker's rights. Please watch our social media sites and your email for continued updates and actions regarding these bills.

Red Alert

SB 6 - Education Savings Accounts

Education Savings Accounts (ESA) are school vouchers. Vouchers drain funding from public schools, resulting in less resources to provide services to students.

SB 8 - Permitting county boards of education to base certain workforce decisions on individual's qualifications

This bill would abolish the use of seniority in the determination of RIFs and transfers of school employees. It would virtually eliminate job security for classroom teachers and professional personnel.

SB 124 / SB 304 / HB 2572 - Authorizing charter schools

There are multiple bills to propose charter schools. All would drain funding from public schools.

House Joint Resolution 103

This resolution would call for a constitutional change mandating the election of state Board of Education members. AFT-WV has serious concerns with this proposal, as there is no copy of the document available to the public and the change would certainly increase the politicization of education policy.

Legislation on the Move

HB 2799 - Prohibiting the superintendent of schools from requiring a physical examination to be included to the application for a minor's work permit. Passed House Education; pending House Judiciary.

HB 2887 - Providing for retirement and separation incentives for higher education employees. Passed House Education; pending full House. AFT-WV supports.

HB 3089 - Relating to the adoption of instructional resources for use in the public schools. Passed House Education; on 3rd reading in the House.

HB 3095 - Allowing retired teachers to be employed by a higher education institution without forfeiting their retirement. Passed House Education; moves to full House. AFT-WV supports.

HB 4006 - Dismantles the Education and the Arts, Center for Professional Development. Passed House Education; pending House Finance. AFT-WV is concerned about the continuation of important programs not transferred to the WVDE under this bill.

SB 62 - Adjusting requirements for hiring school attendance directors. Passed Senate Education; on 3rd reading in Senate.

SB 130 - Creating the Tim Tebow Act, which permits private or home-school students to participate in WVSSAC sanctioned extra-curricular activities. Passed House Education; pending House Finance. AFT-WV opposes.

More than ever, your activism is critical. At times, AFT-WV will need all employees to contact education committee members about the issues.

Please print, share and save the list below!

[Click here to download contact information for the House and Senate Education Committee members.](#)

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