



# AFT-West Virginia 2018 Legislative Update

Please  
Post

Friday, January 26, 2018

## AFT-WV, AFL-CIO, WVEA Stand Together for Joint Press Conference

Speaking on behalf of thousands of public employees, leaders from AFT-WV, WVEA, UMWA, CWA and the West Virginia AFL-CIO called on lawmakers to work on a long-term strategy to make salaries for state employees competitive with contiguous states.

"We're calling on the elected leaders of West Virginia to listen to teachers, service personnel and public employees, and actually prove that this state values the work we do," said AFT-West Virginia President Christine Campbell. "The coming weeks will determine where the legislative priorities truly are."

Campbell acknowledged that many teachers have expressed a desire to strike.

"It's not something any of us take lightly," she said. "First, we're going to call on our legislators to do the right thing. We're going to say it in our hometowns. We're going to say it at the capitol. We're going to say it in our schools and our districts... If our efforts appear futile, we're prepared to take additional steps. We don't want a strike - nobody does. We hope it won't come to that. But if it does, we stand in unity with our colleagues in the WVEA."



If you missed the press conference, you can still watch it!

[Click here to view it on AFT-WV's YouTube channel.](#)

## Your calls, emails and visits to the Capitol are making a difference!

### House version of homeschool bill dies in House Education Committee

[HB 4007](#) would have created the Tim Tebow Act, permitting private or home-school students to participate in WVSSAC sanctioned extra-curricular activities. The bill died on Wednesday in a 16-9 vote in House Education.

The Senate version of the Tim Tebow Act is Committee Substitute for [SB 130](#). The bill had passed Senate Education on January 12 and is pending action by Senate Finance. While the bill is still active, the House Committee vote demonstrates a lack of support for passage.

### House Joint Resolution 103 sent to subcommittee

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.

## STATEWIDE DAY OF ACTION

**FEBRUARY 17, 2018**

**TEACHERS, SERVICE PERSONNEL & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

The groups are planning a massive statewide day of action on February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol. The time will be announced soon. We need EVERY teacher, service personnel and public employee to attend! We must show a massive turnout to ensure legislators understand that teachers, service personnel and public employees are fed up and are ready to ACT!

**FEBRUARY 3 & 10- LOCAL TOWN HALL**

**More details announced soon!**



**AFT-West Virginia**  
Christine Campbell, President  
[www.aftwv.org](http://www.aftwv.org) 800.222.9838





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** (Sponsored by Sen. Rucker and Sen. Karnes)

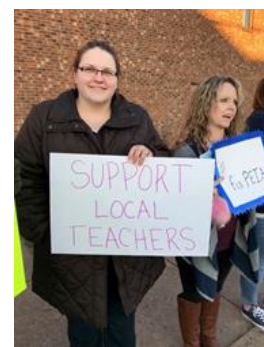
Education Savings Accounts (ESA) are school vouchers. Vouchers drain funding from public schools, resulting in less resources to provide services to students.

**SB 8 - Permitting county boards of education to base certain workforce decisions on individual's qualifications** (Sponsored by Sen. Gaunch and Sen. Trump)

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** (Lead sponsors: Sen. Karnes, Sen. Carmichael & Del. Espinosa)  
There are multiple bills to propose charter schools. All would drain funding from public schools.

## **Action across the state: Wearing Red for Public Ed, Informational Pickets and Local Meetings**



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