



AFT-West Virginia 2018 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Sunday, February 04, 2018

AFT-WV Continues Talks with Leaders; Members Flood Halls of Capitol; Senate passes 1% raise

AFT-WV and WVEA leaders continue to meet with legislative leaders and the governor's staff on salaries, PEIA and other issues. Thank you to the many members who met with Senators Carmichael and Gaunch this week and the hundreds who came to the Capitol on Friday. Your collective voice was powerful! While school employees looked on from the gallery, the Senate approved the 1% pay raise. The bill now moves to the House, where we hope to increase the amount.

Also this week, AFT-WV and WVEA local chapters met to inform employees and get feedback. Meetings will be held in each county to conduct a strike authorization vote.

Teachers & Service Personnel: What do you need to do?

- Make sure you are in communication with your building level and county AFT & WVEA leadership. Sign up for email and text communication from AFT-WV.
- Attend the local meeting(s) in your county. If your county has not already held a meeting to hold an "authorization vote," expect a meeting to be held soon. This vote will authorize the elected leadership of AFT-WV and WVEA to call for a statewide action should circumstances merit a work stoppage. The results of each county vote will be reported at a local presidents meeting scheduled for February 11.
- Attend the statewide rally/day of action on February 17th at the Capitol. It's critical to have a massive show of solidarity.
- Help build public support for our issues by talking with neighbors, your church family and local businesses to explain how low pay and PEIA changes have hurt your family and quality of education for our students by driving teachers and service personnel out of state.
- Continue your calls and emails to legislators!
- Continue local actions such as walk-ins, informational pickets, etc.



AFT-WV President Christine Campbell and WVEA President Dale Lee appeared together on Talkline with Hoppy Kercheval on Thursday. [Click here to view it if you missed the broadcast.](#) (Segment begins at 1 hour into the show.)

Keep up the pressure! Change is happening!

Jan 29: Governor Justice recommends PEIA Go365 be made voluntary with no penalties.

Jan. 30: [HB 4365](#) is introduced, which is a bipartisan effort fix the premium cost sharing at no less than 80 percent for the employer and no more than 20 percent for the employee.

Feb 1: Senate Democrats attempt to pass an amendment to increase the 1% raise to a 3%. Amendment fails.

Feb 1: Governor Justice announces PEIA Finance Board will meet to revise premium levels for dual income families.

Feb 1: AFT-WV and WVEA leaders meet with Governor and top legislative leaders to continue to discuss issues.

Feb 2: Schools closed in Mingo, Wyoming, McDowell and Logan counties due to school employee walk out.

Feb. 2: Close to 1000 school employees travel to the Capitol to voice their frustrations to legislators.

STATEWIDE DAY OF ACTION
FEBRUARY 17, 2018
TEACHERS, SERVICE PERSONNEL & PUBLIC
EMPLOYEES
WV STATE CAPITOL
TIME: TBA



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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 (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.

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

There are several bills attacking the seniority rights for school employees. While none of these bills have advanced from a committee yet, we must remain vigilant and continue to contact legislators to oppose any attack on seniority.

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.

SB 335 -Paycheck Deception (Sponsors: Senators Karnes, Weld, Boso, Blair, Rucker, Cline and Ferns)

In a clear attempt to silence your voice, immediately following Friday's rally, The Senate Judiciary Committee passed SB 335, which will make it very difficult to have your union dues deducted from your paycheck. Please contact your senators and tell them to vote No on SB 335.

Action across the state: Wearing Blue for State Employees



#fixPEIA #BlueMonday PCES Staff are true blue to ALL state workers ! Lewis County, WV #wearblueforstateworkerstoo #PCESWildcats — at Peterson Central Elementary School.



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