

Our state legislature is debating whether or not to give us a one or two percent raise. That's a slap in the face.

Our elected leaders say they value education. **WE SAY** it's time they proved it.

Salaries for West Virginia educators are among the worst in the nation.

Our state ranks 48th in average teacher salary. We've actually slipped two places in the rankings from 2015 to 2016. Many of us are living below the poverty level. Add in the hikes in PEIA premiums and co-pays, and we're taking home less every year.

No wonder West Virginia now has 725 vacant teaching positions. Teachers and school staff can't afford to work here.

It's about priorities.

Since 2007 our legislature has been handing lavish tax breaks to wealthy donors and corporations—all the while starving our schools and public services of funding. At budget time, a raise for teachers and service personnel quickly went by the wayside. Can the legislature tell us: *When the wealthiest people in this state got a tax cut, where was their concern about costs?*

It's about respect.

Every day, we're called on to do more with less. Every day, we give of our best. And every day, we're faced with the spectacle of our elected leaders questioning our right to a living wage and our children's right to good schools.

Our anger is righteous.

For too long, the elected leaders of West Virginia have disrespected and disowned education and the work we do. Now we're standing up to defend our schools and our profession, in unity with our brothers and sisters in the WVEA.

Will our legislators
LISTEN?

If not,
**WE STAND
READY
TO MAKE
THEM
HEAR.**

State leaders:
It's time to fund our schools.
It's time to pay teachers and
school staff a living wage.

A message from
AFT-West Virginia



For our children.
For our future.