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Legislative Update Week 5
Feb. 12, 2022

Top 3 Things to Know

1 Senate Voucher Fight - The Senate Education Subcommittee met twice on Wednesday to discuss voucher bill [S.935](#). Both meetings centered on proposed amendments to the harmful voucher legislation. The morning meeting, which was live-streamed by the statehouse ([you can watch by clicking here and then scrolling down to Wednesday, February 9, 2022 10 am and selecting the S.935 meeting](#)), and eligibility amendments took up most of the discussion with Senator [Jackson](#) (Richland) proposing an amendment to limit eligibility to only failing students rather than students from schools deemed as failing, so as to limit the harmful impact to public schools that need support. [The full morning meeting summary can be read here](#). The afternoon meeting to discuss amendments to [S.935](#) included not just eligibility but also funding requirements and more. Senator [Hutto](#) (Orangeburg) proposed several equity-focused amendments to limit qualifying expenses for the vouchers in [S.935](#), as well as amendments to address the very limited non-discrimination clauses in the bill and the funding source. [The full afternoon meeting summary can be read here](#). A 7th meeting will take place next Wednesday. [Don't forget to take action!](#)


2 House Voucher Bill - The House voucher bill, [H.4879](#), was discussed in a Revenue Policy Subcommittee of House Ways and Means meeting on Tuesday. [The SCEA submitted opposition testimony, which can be read by clicking here](#). Despite testimony from several organizations and Rep. [Brawley](#) (Richland) regarding the voucher bill sending public money to private schools, the ability of private schools to discriminate based on a wide number of factors, and the chronic underfunding of Public Schools and base student cost, the Subcommittee voted to give H.4879 a favorable report. [Read the full meeting summary here](#). In the full House Ways and Means Committee meeting on Wednesday,

The Committee voted to give H.4879 a favorable report. Rep. [Cobb-Hunter](#) (Orangeburg) was the sole vote against the harmful voucher bill, as well as the sole voice to seek to make the non-discrimination clause truly inclusive. [Read the full meeting summary here.](#)

3 A Day On for Public Education: Virtual Day of Action - With our voice, we can move the issues that matter to your profession, your students, & your community. Join The SCEA on President's Day for a Day ON for Public Education! We will hear from education advocates, legislators, and members like you and engage in collective advocacy to make sure the voice of educators is heard anywhere decisions about Public Education are made. [Register for the Virtual Day of Action here.](#)

[Check out the Week Ahead with Legislation and Meetings of Interest!](#)

Use Your Educator Voice!

 **Cheers** - Rep. [Cobb-Hunter](#) (Orangeburg) opposed harmful voucher bill [H.4879](#) on **Wednesday**, drawing attention to the underfunding of Public Schools and the weak non-discrimination clause in the bill, specifically speaking up to draw attention to children who could still face discrimination despite an amendment made to the clause. [Click here to thank Rep. Cobb-Hunter for speaking out and voting in opposition to H.4879.](#)

Rep. [Brawley](#) (Richland) gave testimony and spoke out against harmful voucher bill [H.4879](#) on **Tuesday**, saying that she believes it is wrong to set aside \$75 million for a voucher program when base student cost is still not fully funded. Rep. Brawley emphasized that it is important to fund Public Schools first and that she believes the first priority of legislators should be to cover the necessary needs of public schools, which means funding them. [Click here to thank Rep. Brawley for her testimony.](#)

Senators not sponsoring harmful voucher bill [S.935](#), as well Senators [Hutto](#) (Orangeburg) and [Jackson](#) (Richland) for raising incisive questions about the impact and potential harm during subcommittee meetings on Wednesday.

[Use this link to check out whether your Senator is one of the Senators not sponsoring S.935 and to send an email thanking them for not sponsoring and urging them not to support the bill.](#)

 **Jeers** - Twenty out of 29 Republican Senators are sponsoring [S.935](#) Education Scholarship Account Vouchers.

[Use this link to check out whether one of these 20 Republican Senators is your state Senator, and to let them know you are disappointed in their support for S.935, a bill that harms public schools.](#)

Rep.s [White](#) (Anderson) and [Cox](#) (Anderson) added their names to sponsor harmful voucher bill [H.4879](#).

Right now, all House members need to hear from you. Send your Representative an email to let them know you do not support private school vouchers and not to support [H.4879](#). [\(Not sure who your Representative is? Use this link!\)](#)



Above: The second Wednesday meeting of the Senate Education Subcommittee to discuss **S.935**. The SCEA attended this discussion, which took place in a small, closed room above the Senate floor.

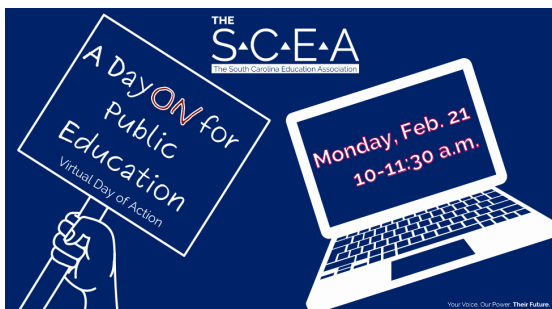
The Subcommittee carried over the discussion to a seventh meeting meeting [scheduled for Wednesday at 10 a.m.](#)

No public comment was taken. However, testimony is not the only way to make your voice heard on this important issue.

You can help get the word out about this harmful legislation and the severe consequences it could have for public schools by [sharing on social media](#) and, most importantly, [writing to the members of the Senate Education Subcommittee now](#).

Click below to send your email to all five Senators on the Subcommittee!

[Email the Senate Education Subcommittee Now!](#)



RSVP Now!

Don't miss **A Day On for Public Education**, The SCEA's virtual day of action! With our collective voice, we can move the issues that matter to your profession, your students, & your community.

[Register for the Virtual Day of Action here.](#)



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Click this button to find their contact information, including email, phone number, and even their Facebook or Twitter.

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Do you believe every South Carolina student deserves a great public school?

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[Take the Pledge!](#)

The Week Ahead

[Click here for a look at the meetings scheduled for next week](#) on bills of interest to education.

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