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Legislative Update Week 7

Feb. 26, 2022

Top 3 Things to Know

1 Educator Raises - The House Ways and Means Committee... Our collective voice is being heard! In their budget announcement, the House Ways and Means Committee included a \$4000 increase to every step of the teacher salary schedule, a 5% bus driver pay increase, and an increase in classroom supply money to \$300.

[The SCEA has been advocating for South Carolina to increase starting teacher salary to the national average of \\$41,163, as well as equivalent increases for every step of the schedule and for support staff.](#)

[President Sherry East recently spoke with Nick Reagan of Charleston News 5 about The SCEA's advocacy and the need for continued advocacy on this issue.](#) This positive step towards the national average shows the collective power of educators speaking out as one voice. We must keep raising our voice as one to achieve the conditions all South Carolina educators, school staff, and students deserve. **[Click here to take action!](#)**

- [The Education and Public Works Subcommittee recommendation from Wednesday can be read here](#)
- [The full Ways and Means Committee meeting summary from Thursday can be read here](#)
- [A list of adopted proviso amendments from Thursday can be found here.](#)

2 Honesty in Education - This Tuesday the House Education and Public Works Committee will be meeting a second time to listen to public testimony on several bills that seek to pit parents against educators. [H.4325](#), [H.4343](#), [H.4392](#), [H.4605](#), and [H.4799](#) [Read The SCEA's submitted testimony from the previous hearing here.](#) On their surface, these bills claim to focus on banning "Critical Race Theory" but in actuality


impose top-down censorship policies about topics not part of the SC education standards. [Read more to learn how to take action!](#)

3 Senate Voucher Fight - The Full Senate Education Committee met for the first time to discuss voucher bill [S.935](#) as a full committee on Wednesday. In the past seven meetings, many concerns were expressed by educators, parents, and constituents, as well as by Subcommittee Members Senator [Jackson](#) (Richland) and Senator [Hutto](#) (Orangeburg). In fact, over 700 South Carolina constituents have used The SCEA's call to action to ask the Subcommittee to urge them to oppose [S.935](#).

No action was taken during Wednesday's meeting. However, the Committee discussed the bill and several amendments, and has adopted the subcommittee amendments on S. 935 as a working document, [which can be read here](#). [The full meeting summary can be read here](#). While public comment is not taken during full committee, you can still make your voice heard and take action to stop this harmful voucher legislation. [Read more to take action!](#)

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

Use Your Educator Voice!

 **Cheers** - Senator [Fanning](#) (Fairfield), Representative [Allison](#) (Spartanburg), and [Pierce McNair](#) for joining The SCEA members for A Day On for Public Education Virtual Day of Action on Monday. Click their names to thank them for taking time to listen to and encourage educators and school staff to take our place at the table and advocate!

The [House Ways & Means Committee](#) for proposing funding for the \$4000 raise for teachers on every step of the salary schedule and raises for bus drivers. [Click here to thank the Committee for this proposal and to urge them to invest in every educator and school staff person in every stage of their career!](#)

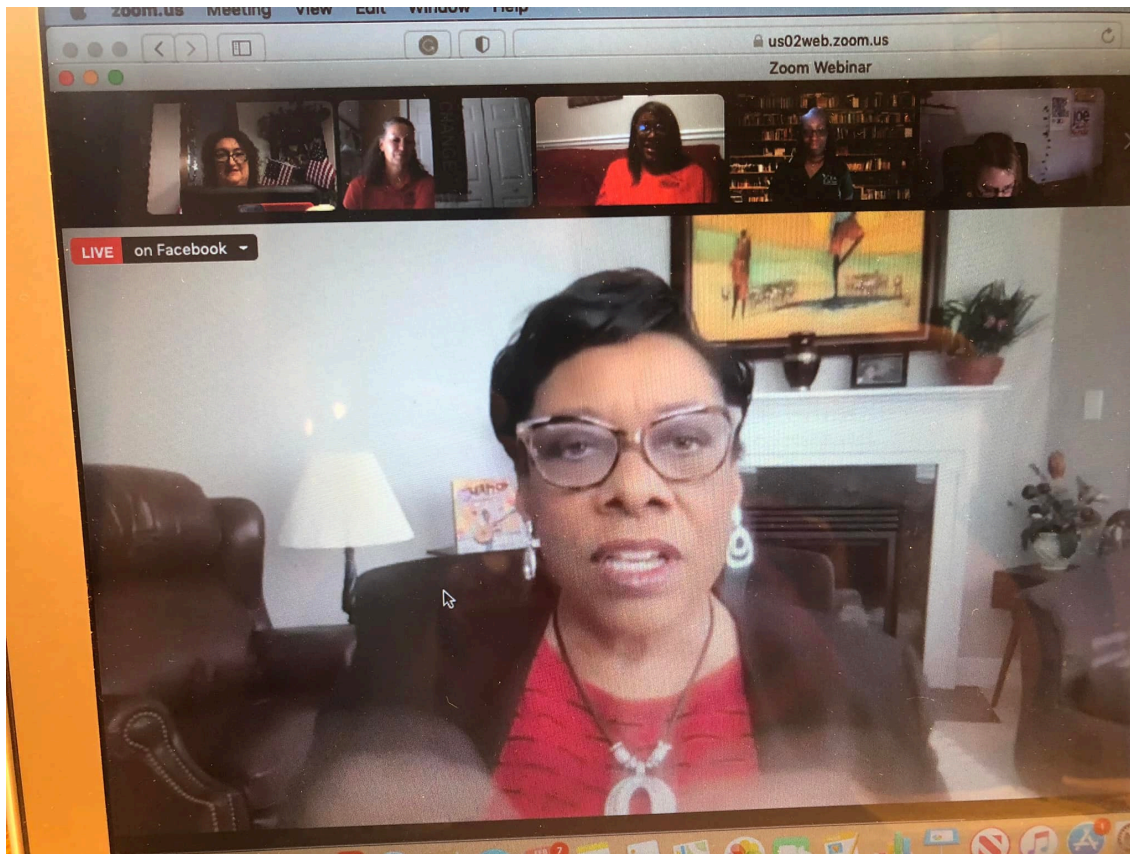
Senators not sponsoring harmful voucher bill [S.935](#), as well as Senators [Jackson](#) (Richland) and [Hutto](#) (Orangeburg) for not supporting a favorable report of harmful voucher bill [S.935](#), during subcommittee meetings on Wednesday.

[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.](#)

Representatives [Fry](#) (Horry) and [Crawford](#) (Horry) added their names to sponsor harmful anti-Honesty in Education bill [H.4605](#).



Above: NEA President Becky Pringle joined The SCEA on Monday for A Day On for Public Education Virtual Day of Action.

Take Action!

Another hearing will be held on **Anti-Honesty in Education bills** [H.4325](#), [H.4343](#), [H.4392](#), [H.4605](#), and [H.4799](#) will take place this Tuesday March 1st. [You can read The SCEA's submitted testimony from the previous hearing here.](#)

If you previously emailed to give testimony and have not yet been heard, you can email gingerlee@schouse.gov and request what number you are to speak at the next hearing. We recommend replying from your original email with the date and time you originally requested since the order is determined on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you want to learn more and take action, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) has [a comprehensive resource](#) for learning about each bill, as well as how to draft and submit testimony. [In addition, you can reach out to The SCEA Public Affairs for support in taking action!](#)

The Full Senate Education committee will continue to discuss harmful voucher bill **S.935**.

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 your Senator now](#).

Click below to send an email to your Senator!



Email Your Senator Now!



Contact your elected officials at any level on any issue.

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

Find & Contact Elected Officials



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

Make sure your state Senator & Representative know that Public Education issues will have most impact your decision as a voter.

Take the Pledge!

The Week Ahead & Legislation of Interest

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

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