



Legislative Update Week 13

April 9, 2022

*This past week in the legislature was action-packed as legislators rushed to meet the **crossover deadline**.*

Any measure that doesn't meet the "crossover" deadline requires a supermajority vote to even be considered by the other chamber, which is difficult to achieve on legislation with significant opposition

On Tuesday, following hours of debate that included hundreds of amendments and a tornado warning that sent lawmakers into the basement, the House voted to pass [H.4608](#), a bill to prohibit transgender students from participating in student sports. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee. [You can click here to take take action.](#)

*After the prolonged debate on **H.4608** Tuesday, several bills with significant opposition failed to meet crossover. Read below for more details!*

Top 3 Things to Know

1 Anti-Truth Legislation Fails to Meet Crossover - [H.5183](#), the anti-truth educator censorship bill that was written following several hearings on five anti-Truth bills (H. 4325, 4343, 4392, 4605, and 4799) failed to pass the House before a critical deadline called "crossover."

Officially, that deadline is April 10. But since that falls on a weekend this year, legislation needed to pass either the House or Senate before legislators went home April 7.

Due to the outpouring of member voice through calls, emails, social media tags, testimony, and more, many legislators listened to educators and requested to debate H.5183, placing it on the contested calendar, which made passage a much more daunting task.

In [an article from the Post and Courier](#), House Education Chairwoman Rita Allison said, "Knowing the number of amendments that were on it and where that would keep us and how long we'd be here, a lot of people just didn't have the appetite for it, on both sides."

However the bill is not completely "dead," and we must stay vigilant. Before adjourning April 6, the House voted 72-41 to limit debate when H.5183 does come up again. The vote means no additional amendments can be proposed beyond the 200 already filed.

In addition, it is possible that pieces of H.5183 could be introduced as amendments to other bills that did meet crossover or even as budget provisos.

That's why it is important to continue you to reach out to your Representative to [let them know you want them to stand against any censorship legislation](#).

The SCEA will continue to monitor all legislation vigilantly and keep you informed!

2 Voucher Fight Narrows and Continues - Another House bill that failed to meet the crossover deadline is [H.4789](#), the House voucher scheme. While this particular voucher scheme has been halted, the fight on vouchers is far from over.

Last week the Senate passed [S.935](#)—a far more expansive and damaging voucher scheme, and S.935 was read on the House floor and assigned to the House Ways & Means committee—the same House committee that passed the House voucher scheme with disturbing haste. This means S.935 is likely to reach the House floor to be voted on this session.

That's why it is important to continue you to reach out to your Representative to [let them know you want them to stand against voucher schemes that send public dollars to schools that can discriminate against South Carolina students](#).

3 Senate considers teacher raises & K-12 budget - The Finance K-12 Subcommittee met on Tuesday and Wednesday last week to consider provisos related to K-12 Education.

Most of Tuesday's discussion focused on proposed changes to the proposed new funding mechanism for education funding. [A summary of Tuesday's meeting can be read here](#).

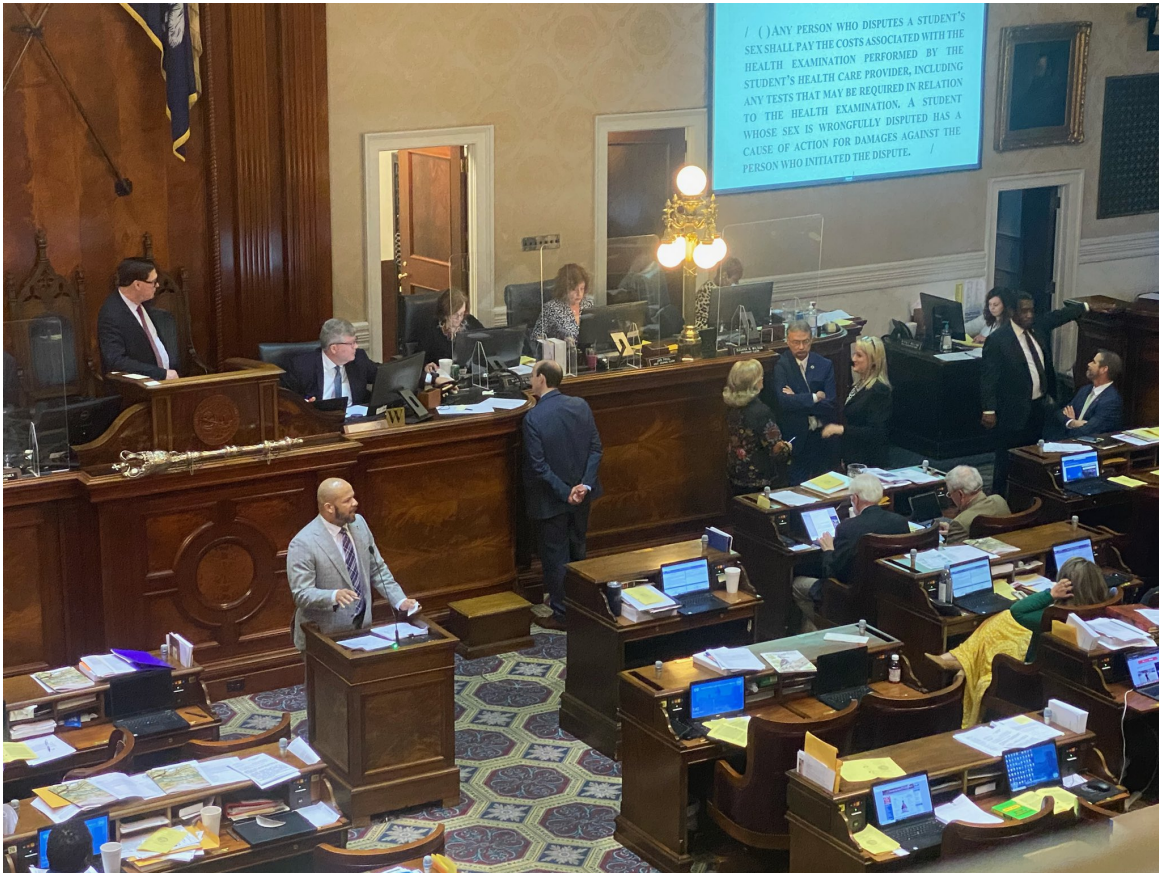
Wednesday's meeting included discussion of the House's proposal to increase the minimum teacher salary schedule by \$4000. As part of the discussion, the Senate discussed potentially offering a lower raise of \$2000 to the minimum salary schedule.

Senator Kevin Johnson raised several points about the unprecedented opportunity South Carolina now has to make a historic investment in educators and leveling the playing for students. [A summary of Wednesday's meeting can be read here](#).

The SCEA also believes that historic crisis must be met with historic solutions. [Act now to urge your legislators to vote to provide funding for raises for all of South Carolina's educators and staff on the frontlines of our Public Schools, no matter where they work, what position they hold, or what stage they are in of their career](#).

Don't forget that with any legislation or issue, you can reach out to your elected official by phone, email, or even social media [using this tool](#)!

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



Above: Representative John King speaks to one of over 1000 amendments that were proposed on H.4608 this week.

Use Your Educator Voice!

👍 Members like you for using your voice to make a difference on anti-truth educator censorship legislation!

Representatives like [John King](#), [Annie McDaniel](#), and [Todd Rutherford](#) for standing up for transgender children by debating for hours to voice opposition to H.4608.

Senator [Kevin Johnson](#) for advocating that the legislature invest in educators and for making more opportunities available to all South Carolina students with equitable funding.

👎 Jeers - South Carolina's United States Senators Graham and Scott for voting against the historic nomination of newly confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court.

💡 Take Action! 💡

Stand Up for Public Schools



When the House returns from furlough on April 19th, the Ways and Means Committee will begin discussion on voucher scheme S.935.

And while H.5183 did not meet the crossover deadline, elements of this harmful anti-truth censorship bill H.5183 may find its way into other legislation.

These are blatant attacks on South Carolina's Public Schools and the over 96% of students who attend them.

Tell Your Representative to Stand Up for Public Schools!

More Than
PRAISE

Stop the Shortage
Take ACTION!

we

ALL

need a

RAISE!

THE
S.C.E.A
SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
Your Voice Our Future. Their Future.

South Carolina's schools are facing an unprecedented educator and school staff shortage crisis that only deepens by the day.

Students deserve to have fully staffed schools & a highly qualified educator every classroom.

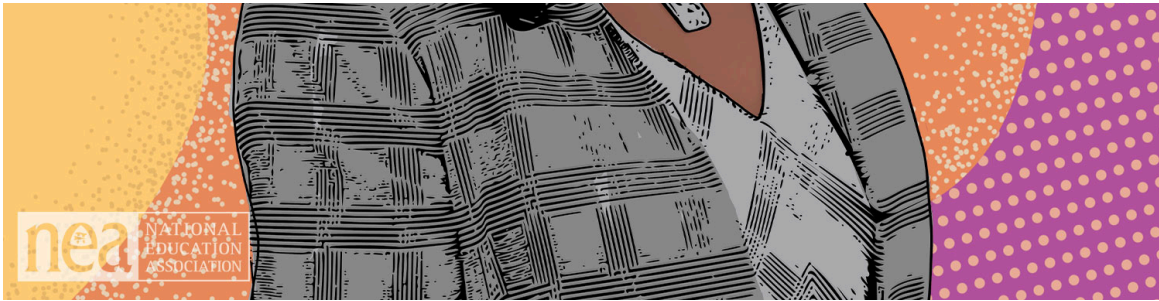
Legislators need to fund it.

Urge your Senator and Representative to [fund raises for ALL](#) South Carolina educators and schools staff.

Advocate for raises for ALL!

Congratulations! JUDGE JACKSON





U.S. Senate Confirms Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson

This week the United States Senate made history by voting to confirm Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as the 116th associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. This decision, which received support from both Democratic and Republican senators, is a long-overdue milestone for our country where, for generations, Black women have been locked out of the opportunity to serve on the Supreme Court.

[Read more about this historic confirmation and how educators are responding here!](#)

National Action Alert!

We have an opportunity right now to support the U.S. Department of Education's plan to cut federal grant opportunities from for-profit charters. For too long these corporate interests have wedged themselves into our communities and taken precious resources that our students, schools, and colleagues have needed.

Send a comment to the department in support of this action today and urge them to hold charter schools accountable. [This link provides more information about the public notice and an editable message for you to include.](#)

👁️ Legislation to watch 👁️

[S.946](#) the unencumbered time bill has been assigned to the House Education and Public works committee. Stay tuned to The SCEA updates for action to take soon!

The Week Ahead & Legislation of Interest

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

Want the latest on federal legislation?

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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!](#)

