



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SC House Ways & Means Committee Approves Teacher Pay Raise

*The South Carolina Education Association has worked with SC
Legislators to increase pay and economic stability for our educators*

Columbia, SC— The South Carolina Education Association is pleased to announce the House Ways & Means Committee approved a two percent across the board teacher pay raise and step increase on Wednesday, February 24. In addition, the House Committee agreed to cover the increase in educator healthcare premiums, providing more disposable income for teachers. Equally, the budget includes \$10 million to increase pay for bus drivers.

Our House legislators have shown their recognition that South Carolina's educators deserve higher pay and their work directly impacts our state's future. Next stop, the funding measure goes before the full House of Representatives and will be debated the week of March 21-24.

Raising teacher pay has a two-fold effect in bringing value and sustainability in South Carolina's economically struggling communities. The South Carolina Education Association maintains teaching must be viewed as a career choice that allows educators to live and raise families in the communities they serve, and higher educator pay can serve as an incentive for teachers to choose teaching in schools in underserved communities.

Teacher's starting salary must be comparable to that of other college graduates who have similar education and training to provide that incentive, and educator's ongoing pay must stay current with cost of living increases and provide the means for our educators to maintain economic stability and growth. According to a report released by the Center for American Progress in 2014, 16.1% nationally and 12.6% of SC teachers hold second jobs to help make ends meet.

The South Carolina Education Association is grateful to Governor Nikki R. Haley for proving her dedication to improving South Carolina's public education system by making education the centerpiece of her State of the State address earlier this year, and equally grateful to The House Ways and Means Committee for so quickly approving the increased educator pay raises in this year's budget.

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