

KEA President's Points

February 16, 2018



The Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Dear Member,

Many of you may have seen a letter circulating on social media last weekend from a group of wealthy political contributors urging legislators to break their promise to educators and other public employees. The letter called for the elimination of all defined benefit pension plans. Earlier this week KEA, as a member of the Kentucky Public Pension Coalition, issued a statement in response to this letter that you can access [here](#). Legislators need to hear from us loud and clear: Find funding first to secure the retirement of public employees! Call the legislative hotline today 1-800-372-7181.

PENSION NEWS

A pension bill related to CERS and TRS has yet to be introduced by the House or Senate as of today. Legislators are focused on the state budget, other singular issues and exploring possible revenue streams. As soon as any pension bill is released KEA will make sure to send out an alert to that affect.

BUDGET NEWS:

The House and Senate A & R committees continue to have hearings on the budget bills currently in place. We expect a final House version later this month.

BILL WATCH

Education Committee Update:

The House and Senate Education Committees met jointly on Thursday. Presentations were given from the following organizations:

- **Career and Technical Education Student Organization Leadership Day Speakers**
 - Sydney Beavers, Woodford County High School, State President
 - Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA)

- **Presentation: Workforce of Today/Workforce of Tomorrow Speakers**

- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Center for Education and Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Rockcastle Regional Hospital Respiratory Care Center
- Child Development Center of the Bluegrass
- Child Care Council of Kentucky

No action or bills were considered at this meeting. The KEA Lobby team continues to monitor a list of dozens of education related bills and will keep you up to date on any significant bills moving through the process.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY to Nominate your Teacher or ESP Colleague for the KEA Teacher/ESP of the Year Award

Please make sure that anyone you wish to nominate for KEA Teacher or ESP of the Year submits their application information by 5:00 pm ET today. Click [here for Teacher](#) nomination. Click [here for ESP](#) nomination.

PLEASE CALL or EMAIL your Congressman NOW!

NEA has been a partner, and unfortunately KEA, submitted a list of fallen Kentucky public school employees that are currently displayed on the National Memorial to Fallen Educators located in Emporia, KS. The Senate recently passed this act without a single no vote, that would make this memorial a National Monument. Members are asked to contact their Congressman to support H.R. 2711 and S. 167 - National Memorial to Fallen Educators Act. Currently we have no Kentucky Congressmen cosponsoring H.R. 2711. S. 167; however, we did not have either Senator McConnell or Paul cosponsor the bill. This bill designates as the "National Memorial to Fallen Educators" an existing memorial located at the National Teacher Hall of Fame in Emporia, Kansas.

The memorial is not a unit of the National Park System and its designation shall not require or allow federal funds to be expanded to any purpose related to it. Here is a link to the bill:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2711/>

Dates to Remember:



Feb. 16 Deadline for KEA Teacher and ESP of
the Year Nominations

March 2 Read Across America Day

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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