

KEA President's Points

October 19, 2017



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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Yesterday Governor Bevin, President Stivers and Speaker Hoover presented their "Keeping the Promise" plan. A copy of the [plan can be viewed here](#).

Although many points were presented in this plan, there is **STILL NO BILL**. Please keep in mind that there is still time to influence changes to any proposed legislation. Our advocacy to this point has led to several positive changes reflected in yesterday's announcement.

One item mentioned by the Governor that I want to make clear is the issue of Social Security. Please [read a letter](#) that KEA sent to the Governor's office (upon his request) about the issue. We want you to read the letter carefully to fully understand our position.

I have had many member calls, emails, and texts wondering what to do next. Here are some steps you can take.



1. **Call the Legislative Message line at 1-800-372-7181 and leave this message for your state Senator and state Representative:**
 - Find Funding First
 - Keep our Defined Benefit Pension system
2. **Email your state Senator and Representative:** Tell them your personal pension expectations in addition to the following points:
 - Current public school employees were hired under a contract that is inviolable. We consider any structural changes to current employees future benefit structure to be a violation of that contract.
 - Why would teachers need to contribute an additional 3% of their salary to go towards health care benefits? In 2010 we passed a "shared responsibility" plan that ensured our retiree healthcare will be prefunded. This plan continues to thrive and is used nationally as an example to

fund retiree healthcare.

- ESP's (Education Support Professionals) having to pay an additional 3% of salary to go towards retiree healthcare is a significant cut in pay and is also a violation of their inviolable contract.
- Freezing cost of living adjustments (COLAs) for current and future retirees would also in our opinion, be a violation of the inviolable contract.
- School districts depend on public school employees to show up for students each day. It is true that sick day payouts are not a part of the inviolable contract, but they are used by school districts to promote good attendance among employees. This not only benefits districts by not having to pay an employee and a substitute, but the real winners are the students who receive consistent, personal instruction from a knowledgeable professional.

3. **Organize a pension forum in your local area** (if you haven't done so already). Invite legislators and other state employees and retirees to attend. Call your local KEA office if you need guidance on how to do this.

KEA to hold second Teletown hall on Pensions

KEA plans to hold another Teletown Hall meeting on **Monday, Oct. 23** at 8pm ET/ 7pm CT.



Please be aware if you receive a call from KEA to be sure to answer the phone and listen for call instructions. This will be another opportunity for members to ask questions and hear from leadership about next steps in our pension fight.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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