

Legislative Update, Monday, January 22, 2018

House Education Committee Sends Early Childhood Funding Measure to Judiciary Committee

This morning the [House Education Committee](#) voted on straight party lines to increase funding from the Land Grant Fund by sending [a constitutional amendment, HJR 1](#) to the 2018 ballot. This amendment would increase funding for public schools for two years, gradually adding a full one percent for early childhood programs in the third year. This would mean an additional \$175 million for early childhood programs in the public schools or through Native American tribes or Pueblos. The measure goes to the [Judiciary Committee](#) next. Let members of the committee know that this funding is greatly needed.

The [Senate Education Committee](#) meets Wednesday morning. The committee chair is retired NEA-New Mexico member [Senator Bill Soules](#). The committee will hear his measure [Senate Bill 36](#). While the measure, adding some \$375 million dollars to school funding, can't pass this year, it is important to keep reminding legislators and the public how woefully underfunded public schools really are. Asked Senators to support this important concept and to make real progress on sufficiently funding our public schools.

Several NEA-New Mexico retired members visited the Capitol today and were recognized on the Senate Floor. They spent the day going to hearings and talking to legislators. See our [facebook page](#) for more details.

On Saturday, February 3, 2018 the New Mexico House and Senate Education Committees will hold an open joint hearing from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., just so they can listen directly to what educators across New Mexico are experiencing due to the chronic under-resourcing of our public schools. The hearing is tentatively scheduled for the chambers of the House of Representatives, but legislative business may take precedence, so a different room may be assigned that day. While the hearing is for all

educators, NEA-New Mexico members are asked to focus their testimony on the many opportunities that are lost every day because schools lack sufficient resources to meet all our students' needs.