



WVSSPA Press Release

Jamie Mallory

304-346-3544

Jmallory@WVSSPA.org

March 9, 2019

WVSSPA Has Grave Concerns with Governor's Special Session for the "Betterment of Education"

Service Personnel and Teachers did not participate in a two-day work stoppage this legislative session over pay, they took to the picket line to protect their students and their work place rights. We commend the Governor on his attempt to fulfill the promise of a 5% raise for service personnel and teachers, we believe this special session is another attempt at doing just that. Our fear is the Senate Leadership will use this special session for another attempt at a "bait and switch." Baiting the general public into believing they are giving a raise to school personnel and just attaching a few reforms that will help the children. Only to defund public education widening the gap between the haves and have nots. To force the agenda of outsiders onto the people of West Virginia.

We sincerely hope our fears are unfounded. This could be a wonderful opportunity to look at the state aid formula, give more funds to small counties who desperately need it. To provide counselors, social workers and other health professionals to guide West Virginia's youth through this statewide opioid crisis. We could take this opportunity to put together a compensation package to attract and retain the nation's best educators and service personnel including much needed bus operators. Regardless of the promised pay raise West Virginia education employees will not be bought, they will continue to do what they do every day; protect, nurture, educate and serve West Virginia's most precious resource.