Land Acknowledgement

We begin by acknowledging that those in Washington, DC meet on the traditional lands served by the Nacotchtank people, and that those of you around the country meet on traditional lands served by other Native peoples. We honor America’s First People and all elders—past, present, and emerging—and are called upon to learn, and share what we learn, about the tribal history, culture, and contributions that have been suppressed in telling the story of America.
Logistics for Tonight

- Our meeting ends at **8:00 p.m. sharp** (Eastern time).
- The **chat box** is open. Please use it to ask lobbyists questions during the meeting, not to say “Hi” to your friends!
- Please use the **raise hand function** to indicate that you would like to ask a question verbally; we will call on you after the presentation.
- If we are unable to answer your question during the hour-long meeting, we will follow up **afterwards**.
Today’s Presentation

Lobbying Topics
- FY2022 final budget bill
- Emergency paid leave
- Social Security & GPO/WEP

Updates
- Public service loan forgiveness
- Supreme Court nominee
Speak Up for Students
OUR VOICE IS OUR POWER

We'll advocate for fully-funded public schools. We'll dismantle unjust systems. We'll give our students the opportunities they need to succeed. Help us make it happen.

nea.org/actioncenter
Potential Supreme Court Nominees

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON
Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

LEONDRA KRUGER
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of California

J. MICHELLE CHILDS
Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina

CANDACE JACKSON-AKIWUMI
Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
FY2022 Final Budget Bill
COVID + Chronic Underfunding Increase Inequities, Accelerate Educator Shortages

- Ongoing education programs get $7 billion less than a decade ago
- Federal government covers less than 16% of special education costs—far below promised 40%
- Before the pandemic, educator shortages were a big problem—now, they’re even worse!
FY2022 Funding Bill Passed by House

- **41% more** for Department of Education—biggest percentage increase of any agency
- **Title I:** $19.5 billion increase
- **Special education:** $3.1 billion increase
- **Community schools:** $443 million—far above $30 million they now get
Key Talking Points

- COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequities
- Target students most in need via Title I, special education, community schools
- Extend USDA’s nationwide waiver authority for federal child nutrition programs through 2022-23 school year
Ask & Leave Behind: FY2022 Final Budget Bill

Will you support a final FY2022 funding bill with increases in education funding as close as possible to the House-passed bill?
Emergency Paid Leave
Where We Are

- COVID pandemic **still with us**
- Previously enacted federal emergency leave provisions **have expired**
COVID Makes Leave Crisis Even Worse

- 1 in 5 workers does not have guaranteed paid sick leave—among them, many education support professionals who work part-time.
- As the COVID pandemic continues, even some educators with paid sick leave are running out of it.
Untenable Choices for Working Parents

- Parents who work cannot always stay home when they or their children are sick.
- They may have no choice but to send sick children to school, where they could spread the virus.
- No one should have to choose between their health and their paycheck.
Inequities Still Laid Bare

- Blacks, Latinos, other workers of color most likely to hold jobs where they’re exposed to COVID
- Older and immigrant workers also affected
- Female workers suffer more economically because they’re more likely to care for sick children, cover other COVID-related disruptions

28% of Black workers who applied for paid sick or family leave said their employer denied their request, compared to 9% of white workers

Source: “Foundations for a Just and Inclusive Recovery,” Color of Change, National Employment Law Project, Times Up Foundation, ILR Worker Institute
Ask & Leave Behind: Emergency Paid Leave

Will you support the inclusion of emergency paid sick & family leave in any supplemental COVID relief, as part of FY2022 appropriations, or in any separate COVID relief Congress considers?
Social Security & GPO/WEP
Where Educators Are NOT Covered by Social Security

- Alaska
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Georgia (some areas)
- Illinois
- Kentucky (some areas)
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Massachusetts
- Missouri
- Nevada
- Ohio
- Rhode Island (some areas)
- Texas
Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP)

- Affects **1.9 million** who worked in jobs covered by Social Security and jobs NOT covered by Social Security
- Reduces **retirement, disability, spousal, or survivor benefits** by up to 50%
- **Example:** “I didn’t start teaching until my 40s. I contributed to Social Security from 1962 till now, but I only receive half of what I should get and because I was a late starting teacher my pension is reduced also.”
Government Pension Offset (GPO)

- Affects 695,000 most of whom are women—low income, often ESPs
- Reduces Social Security spousal or survivor benefits by 2/3 of public pension
- 9 out of 10 lose entire spousal benefit
- Example: “My husband passed away 7 years ago. I was able to draw some of his Social Security at my age of 60 while still working. The sad part is I have to keep working to draw most of it.”
Social Security 2100 Act (S. 3071/H.R. 5723)

- **Increases** benefits for all
- Fully **repeals** GPO and WEP
- **Improves** COLA adjustments
- Strengthens finances by raising **payroll tax cap** to $400,000
- Introduced by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Rep. John Larson (D-CT)
Other NEA-Supported Bills

- **Social Security Fairness Act (S. 1302/H.R. 82)** by Sens. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Susan Collins (R-ME) and Reps. Rodney Davis (R-IL) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA)—Fully repeals GPO and WEP

- **Safeguarding American Families and Expanding Social Security Act (S. 3070)** by Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)—Phases out payroll tax cap, increases benefits, updates formula for calculating COLA

- **Public Servants Protection and Fairness Act (H.R. 2337)** by Rep. Richie Neal (D-MA), House Ways and Means Committee Chairman—Starts to fix WEP, does not address GPO
Key Talking Points

- **2.5 million** dedicated public servants are being deprived of benefits they *earned*
- GPO/WEP penalize educators who dedicate their lives to **public service**
- GPO/WEP *discourage* people from becoming educators
- **Strengthen** Social Security for all
Ask & Leave Behind: Social Security & GPO/WEP

Will you support strengthening Social Security and eliminating GPO/WEP with legislation like the Social Security 2100 Act or Social Security Fairness Act?

Will you urge leadership to bring such legislation to the floor?
Public Service Loan Forgiveness
Fighting to Fix Broken System

- NEA members sent nearly **50,000 personalized messages** to the Department of Education in 2021, nearly 170,000 in last two years
- NEA advocated with allies, sent letters to Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, encouraged **news coverage**
With Your Help, We’re Getting Results

- Waiver issued by Secretary Cardona in October 2021 temporarily expands kinds of payments that count toward PSLF
- In the last 4 months, $5 billion has been forgiven for nearly 70,000 borrowers—just 16,000 got relief in previous 4 years
Success Stories from Educators

- Chris Pirkle, Maine middle-school teacher—$80,000 forgiven
- Emily Robinson, Georgia high-school teacher—$21,000 forgiven
- Rob Glover, University of Maine professor—$150,000 forgiven
- Shirley Cavasos—California middle-school teacher, $47,000 forgiven
Digital Advocacy

Social Media Posts
- Stay on topic, be professional
- Be flexible about meeting times, especially now!
- Strive to be student-centered
- Link to NEA one-pagers, hashtags

Hashtags
- #Covid #PaidLeave
Submit Lobbying Visit Report Forms ASAP

- Go to www.mynea360.org
- Click on Groups
- Go to NEA Board of Directors
- Click on Lobbying Report Form—right-hand column, under the heading “Group Details”