



Saturday, March 3, 2018

Statement from the Three Education Organizations Regarding Action on HB 4145

We are angry and disappointed with the actions of Senator Carmichael and his Republican leadership team. Our agreement was for a 5% salary increase for education employees – period!

We too would love to see state employees receive the same percentage increase as our school employees, and we are fully supportive of them also receiving a 5% increase.

However, you do not equalize pay for different groups by simply taking away from one and passing it to another. The purpose of this is clear – to divide us and to pit us against each other.

In good faith, we reached an agreement and have honored that agreement. We appreciate the hard work of the Governor, Speaker Armstead and the members of the House of Delegates. We also thank all the Senate Democrats and Republican Senator Kenny Mann for their commitment to honor our teachers and service professionals. We thank them for honoring the agreement and trying to get our public schools reopened.

Unfortunately, Senator Carmichael and the Senate leadership chose not to honor the agreement. They have had the bill for 3 days, and they are the ones responsible for our students not being in school.

‘Thank you’ to the parents, students, superintendents, community leaders and supportive legislators.

Senator Carmichael and the Senate leadership team leave us no choice – **all public schools in West Virginia will be closed again on Monday and remain closed until the Senate honors the agreement that was made.**

We call for all education employees and supporters to be at the capitol on Monday to deliver a clear message to Senator Carmichael and his leadership team.