

SAM Legislative Tid Bits 3-8-19

The legislators were on transmittal break March 4 – March 6, making Thursday, March 7th Day 46 of the 66th Legislative session. Review [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 9 3-6-19](#) and [Podcast Week 9](#) to find out about the week's activity.

On Thursday, 3/7, [HB 2 \(Ballance\)](#) General Appropriations Act – Section E - Executive Budget for Program 6 (OPI) and Program 9 (School Funding). SAM testified in support of Program 9 but asked for consideration for funding of special education and the special ed coop formula adjustment, and preschool. Spoke in support of the budgets of the Board of Public Ed, Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, the State Library, and the Montana Arts Council. On Friday, 3/8, [HB 211 \(Jones\)](#) Address recruitment and retention of K-12 quality educators – SAM provided support testimony for the quality educator loan repayment program.

Upcoming Week 10 (March 11-16) Update

[SAM Followed Bills 3-8-19](#) are up to 117 with 258 bill drafts being monitored. [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 3-8-19](#) describes the status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (21 bills), Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (5 bills), Oppose Privatization with Public Funds (0 bills), Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (4 bills), Support School Based Mental Health Services (5 bills), and a new category of Other SAM Followed Bills (33 bills).

Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 10 Mar 11-16 Revised 3-6-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings. Click the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 10 Podcast 3-8-19](#) or review the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 10 Week 10 Revised 3-6-19](#) to see the details.

The tools to follow everything during the legislative session are ready for all SAM members to view and use by clicking on the [2019 Legislative Session](#) under the 'Advocacy' tab on the SAM website (www.sammt.org).