

Greetings SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) Members!

Highlights of Week 4 (Jan 28- Feb 2)

The Senate decided to meet on Saturday, Feb 2 creating legislative day 21 for the 66th Legislative session. At this point in the session, SAM has provided testimony in Committees 26 times on 22 SAM priority bills. Check out a new report – [2019 Legislative Session SAM Testimony Log 2-1-19](#) to see review all of the testimony provided up to this point.

Week 4 was busy with hearings on SAM Followed Bills. Review [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 4 Jan 28-Feb 2 Revised 1-30-19](#) to see the week's activity.

Week 4 testimony was given to represent SAM's support in the House Education Committee for – HB 211 (address recruitment and retention of K-12 quality educators), HB 247 (provide greater flexibility for school districts in financing major maintenance), SB 11 (clarify age requirements related to the definition of pupil), SB 16 (revise school funding related to special ed joint boards), SB 10 (revise school funding related to major maintenance aid), and HB 218 (generally revise laws related to career and technical education). Testimony was given to represent SAM's support in the Senate Education Committee for – SB 35 (generally revise school safety laws). MT-PEC provided opposition testimony in the Senate Education Committee for SB 132 (creating a student safety and accountability act) because the bill as proposed did not contain amendments recommended weeks ago to broaden protections for youth against sexual abuse in all settings. SAM provided support testimony in the House Human Services Committee for HB 235 (providing options, conditions, for financing school health group plans) – a key SAM priority bill for Recruitment and Retention and School Funding.

In other progress this week, SB 159 (inflation applied to most components of the funding formula) has passed the House and referred to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee awaiting hearing.

Upcoming Week 5 (Feb 4-Feb 9)

[SAM Followed Bills 2-1-19](#) are up to 80 with 251 bill drafts being monitored. Check out a new report – [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 2-1-19](#) describing status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (16 bills), Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (4 bills), Oppose Privatization with Public Funds (0 bills), Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (3 bills), and Support School Based Mental Health Services (2 bills).

Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 5 Feb 4-9 Revised 2-1-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings.

On Monday, Feb 4 [HB 225](#) (revise school laws related to inflation, preschool, and special education) the Governors K-12 funding bill is scheduled for hearing in the House Education Committee. This is a key SAM priority bill for Adequate and Equitable Funding and so activities are planned to support this bill.

- Monday, February 4 at 11:30 AM – 12 PM: **Rally for Montana's Future Leaders** – Governor's Reception Room. Governor Steve Bullock, Rep. Casey Schreiner will speak on the comprehensive school funding proposal, HB 225, along with school leaders and parents. Kids who are able to attend are encouraged to dress as what they want to be when they grow up. **Please contact Kirk Miller – samkm@sammt.org, if you are planning to attend the Rally.**
- Monday, February 4 at 3:00 PM: House Education Committee Hearing on HB 225 in Room 137. Any and all support from school administrators, teachers, parents, etc. would be great. **Please contact Kirk Miller – samkm@sammt.org, if you are planning to attend and provide testimony during the hearing.**

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HB 225 will be a Call To Action bill for the SAMLN19 so be ready to contact the member of the House Education Committee.

On Wednesday, Feb 6, HB 351 (encourage transformational learning) will be heard in the House Education Committee. This is a bill that we (MT-PEC) have been working with legislative leaders on with the intent to incentivize school districts who are working on transformational learning strategies for students (like personalized learning, proficiency based learning, etc.). SAM will support this innovative approach for incentivizing our schools.

Please use the SAM website (www.sammt.org) as a resource for all things legislative under 'Advocacy', then [2019 Legislative Session](#). All information for the SAMLN19 is posted on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage – including this first SAMLN Update.

General Information

Click on the items in [blue underline font](#) as they are links that will go directly to the item.

For a copy of the bills, click on the bill number (e.g. [HB 1](#)) or go to [LAWS](#).

All Bills being followed by SAM can be found on the [SAM Bills 2019](#).

[Contact a Legislator](#) (not ready yet at the time of this writing) site is on the [2019 Legislature](#) webpage. You can use the [Online Message Form](#).

You may also [Watch or Listen](#) to live and upcoming meeting and hearings. Just click on the meeting or hearing that is on the schedule.

[2019 SAM Legislative Session](#) webpage.

[SAMLN19 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#).

[SAMLN19 Effective Advocacy PowerPoint](#).

[SAMLN19 'How to Provide Testimony on a Bill' Video](#).

[SAMLN19 Community Forum](#).

[Legislator Contact Info by School District](#)

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAMLN19](#) webpage. We have produced the [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 5 2-1-19 Podcast](#), giving you the opportunity to listen to what is happening for your convenience. I hope this background is helpful to you as you share information with your colleagues in your area!

Kirk