

SAMLN17 Call to Action for HB 376 on 3-26-17

SAMLN17 Update and CALL TO ACTION on HB 376

1 message

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To: samln2017@sammt.org

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Hi SAMLN17 members,

As shared in the [SAMLN17 Legislative Update 12 3-24-17](#), last week was filled with action in the rush to get to the transmittal for appropriations and revenue bills on March 31. The week ended well, when at about 6:00 PM on Friday, the House Education Committee tabled [HB 423](#) -- special education voucher bill [Creates pay vouchers (a mix of state and local public school taxpayer dollars) for special needs kids, 504 kids, military dependents, and all their siblings to go to any school they want anywhere in the world. Bad public policy, misappropriation of public funds, and unconstitutional] on a 6-11 vote.

That means there is only one bill to privatize education with public funds (a SAM opposition action advocacy priority) left this session -- [HB 376](#).

A draft of the [SAMLN17 Schedule: Week 13 \(March 27-31\) 3-26-17](#) indicate the week ahead. We will focus on Executive Action by Senate Finance and Claims Committee on [HB 2](#) scheduled for Tuesday (3/28), working on amendment to support adding funding for special education and the Montana Digital Academy. We will also be tracking the progress of SB 307 -- establishing the building reserve school facilities/technology subfund -- and the companion bills that are language to fund the state share of the subfund established. We believe that [HB 390](#), which is making it's way through the session -- passed the House 98-0 on Friday (3/24), may be a vehicle for many elements we are wanting to happen by the end of the session. Further [SB 367](#), heard in Senate Finance and Claims Committee on Friday (3/24) is very good infrastructure bill that contains \$30 million for Quality School Facility Grant Program projects, and has a possibility of being in the final infrastructure deal for the session. Finally, [HB 647](#) (generally revise education funding, implement general appropriations), being heard on Monday (3/27) in House Appropriations Committee, is a key bill to pull many education priorities together at the end of the session.

This is an official **CALL TO ACTION** to make an impact on the Senate Education Committee who are hearing HB 376 tomorrow (3/27) at 3:00 PM in room 317. HB 376 is a SAM Advocacy Action Priority to oppose privatization with public funds.. **Please do take some time this evening to review this information and take the action requested by 3:00 pm Monday (3/27)**. Here are the details...

[HB 376](#) (Windy Boy) – [legal note](#) - Establishes local district charter schools, chartered through a politicized new bureaucracy state charter commission, "not subject to the general supervision of the board of public education or the accreditation standards." In addition to bad public policy and a frontal assault on the board of public education and school accreditation and teacher licensure standards, HB 376 is unconstitutional (see the legal note). Absolutely nothing prevents a local school district from working with the board of public education to establish a charter school pursuant to rule – [10.55.604](#). In fact, absolutely nothing prevents a local school district from establishing innovative educational environments with or without the board of public education. Click [HERE](#) to go to background information (MT-PEC Spotlight on School Choice in Montana) to assist with your comments on the bill. This bill passed the House 55-44 on (2/27).

The time is now to contact the members of [Senate Education Committee](#) and request their NO vote on [HB 376](#). Chair of Senate Ed, Sen. Dan Salomon has stated that he hasn't heard much on this bill from school folks - so a message to him would be great. We have also spent significant time with Sen. Russ Tempel about this bill and he would appreciate hearing from school folks.

Click [HERE](#) to see the general instructions on how to contact a legislator. Please send a message to the [Senate Education Committee](#) from your area. You can call or send an [Online Message Form](#) to your representatives ...

[Instructions](#) -- after filling in your name and contact info, go down the form and click the 'Committee' button, select 'Senate Education Committee', select 'HB', then type '376' (number of the bill), select the Vote: 'Against' button, enter a short message of your rationale, click the 'send message' button.

This bad policy bill needs to be stopped and the Senate Education Committee is our best opportunity to kill this bill. **Please take action to let the Senate Education Committee know!!**

Thank YOU all,

Kirk and Pat