

Greetings SAM Legislative Network 2017 (SAMLN17) Members!

Week 1 was filled with ceremonial events and the beginning of Committee hearings on bills. Week 2 is stacking up to be filled with hearings on important bills that are being tracked in the SAM Advocacy portfolio for this session. Please look carefully at the schedule and the planned testimony on the given bills. Thank you for using this information to keep your region's members informed and for agreeing to serve on the SAMLN17.

Please use the SAM website ([www.sammt.org](http://www.sammt.org)) as a resource for all things legislative under 'Announcements', then '[2017 Legislative Session](#)'. All information for the SAMLN17 is posted under '[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)' on the 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 tracked by SAM can be found on the [SAM Bills 2017](#) webpage under [SAM General Bills](#).

[Contact a Legislator](#) site is on the [Legislative Session](#) webpage. You can use the [Online Message Form](#).

You may also watch or listen to [Live & Upcoming](#) meeting and hearings. Just click on the meeting or hearing that is on the schedule.

[SAMLN17 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#).

[SAM "How To" Video - Providing Testimony at a Legislative Hearing](#).

## Highlights of Week 1 (Jan 2-6)

Click [HERE](#) to see SAMLN17 Schedule which outlines the schedule of events and hearings on bills for the week. This schedule also outlines the stance of SAM (Proponent, Opponent, or Monitor) in the Comment section for each bill to be heard. This Schedule is also posted on the SAM website under '[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)'.

The single reportable event is SAM proponent testimony on [SB 5](#) on Friday, 1/6/17 and the subsequent unanimous executive action of the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee to send this bill to the floor of the Senate next week.

## Upcoming Week 2 (Jan 9-13)

See [SAMLN17 Schedule for Week 2](#) to review the extensive committee hearing schedule for the coming week!

I'm letting you know that the first hearings on Special Education Funding bills will take place in the House Education Committee on Monday 1/9/13. MCASE has been working on advocacy strategies for Special Ed funding. Click [MCASE Special Ed Funding Advocacy Talking Points](#) to review the SAM/MCASE strategies for supporting the special ed funding bills. Your lobbyist will support all [HB 31](#) (inflation for this biennium), [HB 32](#) (inflation and spec ed coop funding for this biennium), and [HB 33](#) (spec ed coop funding for this biennium), with major emphasis on [HB 32](#) which contains both inflation on the special ed funding component and the special ed coop funding adjustment. As the talking points document indicates, [HB 32](#) provides for movement toward both adequacy and equity! The MT-PEC partners have also indicated support of this approach with [HB 32](#). If these bills make it through the House Education Committee, they will be worthy of a "Call to Action" of the SAMLN17 on the House floor votes.

So, we are off and running and the pace is already picking up. Each of the links in this Update are on the '[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)' website. We hope this background is helpful to you as you share information with your colleagues in your area!

*Kirk and Pat*