



HOUSE OF DELEGATES WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

BUILDING 1, ROOM M-260
1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0470
PHONE (304) 340-3240

02/11/2020

The Honorable Jim Justice
Governor
Office of the Governor, State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice:

On February 28, 2018, in response to a statewide teachers' strike, you created the PEIA Task Force and charged its members with reviewing, studying, and assessing the current state of the Public Employees Insurance Agency. Your executive order directed that after obtaining input from public employees and public retirees, the Task Force was to provide a report of the findings and recommendations for a long-term financial stability plan for PEIA. The input was gathered over a year ago, but the report was never written. In that year, you have not followed up to request the report, nor have we received any updates as to what is being done to permanently fix and fund PEIA.

Earlier this year, two years after the first teachers' strike ended, the Department of Administration presented a budget for FY2021 to the House Finance Committee. During his testimony, Mr. Cheatham, Director of PEIA, indicated that a supplemental appropriation of \$96M from the PEIA Reserve and Rainy Day Funds must be used to prevent an increase in premiums and/or reduction in benefits during the next fiscal year. Further, he stated that in FY2022, all the Rainy Day and Reserve Funds allocated will be exhausted and we will be right back where we were two years ago -- without a permanent fix or funding for PEIA. On top of that, the six-year forecast included in your proposed budget bill for FY2021 shows a statewide budget shortage of \$170,090,000 for FY2022.


Yesterday, in the House Banking and Insurance Committee, Republican leadership presented a bill that would have either kicked 20,000 public employee spouses off PEIA or raised the cost of their health insurance. Fortunately, we were able to defeat it.

The Rainy Day Fund was not a fix. Forcing 20,000 spouses off PEIA to save the state money is not a fix. **Finding a permanent fix and funding for PEIA must be addressed this legislative session.** Our teachers, school service personnel, and public employees deserve an actual solution that will fully fund PEIA.

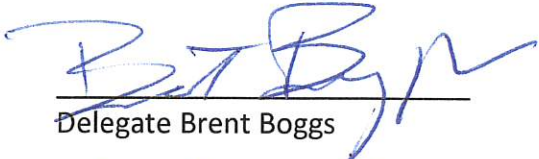
Sincerely,



Delegate Mick Bates



Delegate Michael Angelucci



Delegate Brent Boggs



Delegate Sammi Brown



Delegate Jeff Campbell




Delegate Mike Caputo



Delegate John Doyle



Delegate Ed Evans



Delegate Shawn Fluharty



Delegate Bill Hartman



Delegate Tim Miley, Minority Leader



Delegate Jason Barrett



Delegate Nathan Brown



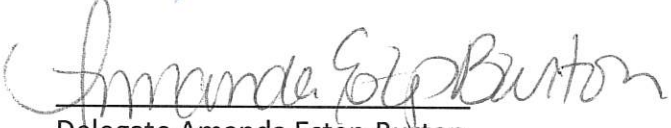
Delegate Andrew Byrd



Delegate Joe Canestraro



Delegate Phil Diserio



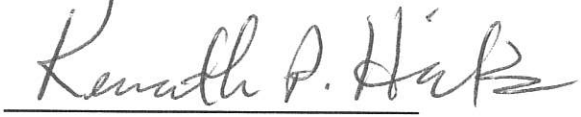
Delegate Amanda Estep-Burton



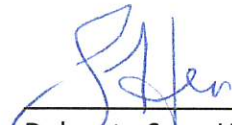
Delegate Barbara Fleischauer




Delegate Evan Hansen




Delegate Ken Hicks


Delegate Sean Hornbuckle


Delegate Cindy Lavender-Bowe

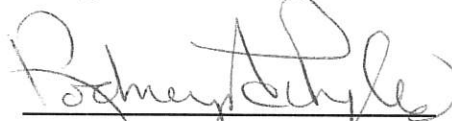

Delegate Linda Longstreth



Delegate Chad Lovejoy

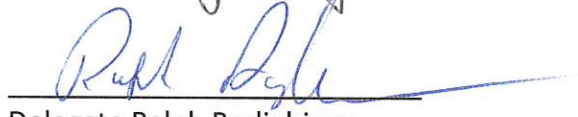

Delegate Rodney Miller

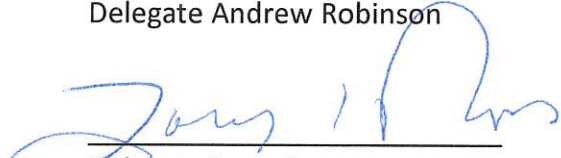

Delegate Dave Pethtel

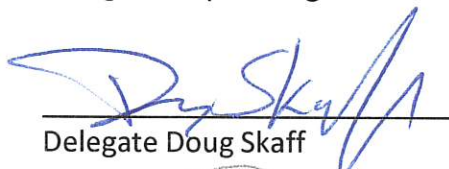

Delegate Mike Pushkin


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Delegate Andrew Robinson


Delegate Ralph Rodighiero


Delegate Larry Rowe


Delegate Doug Skaff


Delegate Isaac Sponaugle


Delegate Margaret Staggars

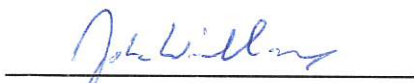

Delegate Randy Swartzmiller


Delegate Cody Thompson


Delegate Robert Thompson


Delegate Tim Tomblin


Delegate Danielle Walker


Delegate John Williams


Delegate Lisa Zukoff

Cc: The Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Mitch Carmichael, President of the Senate
The Honorable Eric Householder, House Finance Committee Chair
The Honorable Craig Blair, Senate Finance Committee Chair
Secretary Allan McVey, Department of Administration
Director Ted Cheatham, PEIA
Chief of Staff Mike Hall, Governor's Office