



PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION of TEACHERS

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE HOUSE

FROM: JERRY T. JORDAN, PRESIDENT, PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS

RE: School Code Legislation (SB 178); Marcellus Shale Tax

JULY 27, 2017

SCHOOL CODE LEGISLATION

The Senate's school code vehicle, SB 178, contains language that allows for public school employees to be terminated for economic reasons and removes all due process from layoff provisions in collective bargaining agreements. *This language should be removed from SB 178.*

- This explicitly prohibits collective bargaining agreements from preventing or even addressing economic based layoffs. This legislation further solidifies the collective bargaining restrictions on educators and local public school districts.
- **SB 178 seeks to scapegoat educators by utilizing an exceedingly flawed evaluation system as a means of determining layoff procedures.** The evaluation system, Act 82, has been a catastrophic failure in its implementation. Act 82 is a punitive means of measuring educator "performance" rather than a holistic approach to improving school resources and the funding inequities that continue to adversely affect districts across the state.
- Moreover, this language applies only to professional educators employed by Public School Districts, not to employees of Charter and Cyber Charter Schools that are funded by the taxpayers in those Public School Districts.

This anti-educator, anti-seniority, anti-union language must be removed from SB 178.

FUNDING LEGISLATION

The time for a tax on the Marcellus Shale is now.

The PFT has long advocated for a severance tax. With the IFO's promising revenue estimates issued this spring coupled with the need to fund the FY 2017-18 budget package, it is incumbent upon the legislature to enact a severance tax now.

The IFO projects in 2018-19, a modest 6.5% severance tax would generate \$712 Million in revenue. This would balloon to an estimated \$1.1 Billion in 2022.* Taxing an industry flush with money simply makes sense.

Schoolchildren across the Commonwealth are constitutionally entitled to a thorough and efficient public education. **We urge House and Senate leadership and members to enact the passage of a severance tax.**

**Full IFO analysis:*

http://www.ifo.state.pa.us/download.cfm?file=/Resources/Documents/Revenue_Proposal_Analysis_April2017.pdf

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