Legislative Fact Sheet-Talking Points

US Forum

National Legislative Seminar, 2024

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Bill Title and Number: \_\_\_S 766\_\_Pay Teachers Act\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Related to Issue Identified by DKG Members: Teacher Recruitment and Retention

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| ***Details about this Bill*** | **Response** |
| *Date Introduced* | 3/09/20232023 |
| *Submitted by* | Senator Bernie Sanders (VT) |
| *Current Status* | Introduced: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  In Committee: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Other: Read twice and referred to Senate HELP Committee |
| *Companion Bill #* |  |
| *Current Sponsors* | Senators Lujan (NM), Warren (MA), Markey (MA), Welch (VT), Hirono (HI), Merkley (OR), Padilla (CA), Fetterman (PA), Butler (CA) |
| *Next Hearing Scheduled* | None scheduled |

Brief Bill Description (as is - up to 3 sentences, lay language, concise)

A bill to ensure that teachers are paid a livable and competitive salary throughout their career, and for other purposes. The bill establishes a baseline salary to teachers of $60,000.00 per year.

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| ***Talking Points*** |  |
| ***TP 1*** | The average public-school teacher with a family of four qualifies for food stamps, public housing, and other government assistance based on their earnings today. |
| ***TP 2*** | Currently, states have made progress in restoring many of the 730,000 teacher positions nationwide that were lost during the pandemic and have used American Rescue Plan funds (ESSER) for this purpose. However, many states are still struggling to return to pre-pandemic staffing levels in order to provide a sufficient number of teachers for every classroom.  [www.ed.gov/raisethebar/educators](http://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/educators) |
| ***TP 3*** | The shortage of teachers has a disproportionate impact on students of color, students with disabilities, and English learners.  [www.ed.gov/raisethebar/educators](http://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/educators) |
| ***TP 4*** | Seventy percent of school leaders agree increased salaries would improve teacher retention.[12](https://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/eliminating-educator-shortages-compensation-preparation-leadership" \l "_ftn12" \o ") Teachers earn 24 percent less than comparable college graduates, a pay gap that has grown over time. From 1996 to 2021, weekly wages for public school teachers, adjusted for inflation, increased by $29, in comparison to an increase of $445 in similar professions requiring a college education.[13](https://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/eliminating-educator-shortages-compensation-preparation-leadership" \l "_ftn13" \o ")  [www.ed.gov/raisethebar/educators](http://www.ed.gov/raisethebar/educators) |

*Related Bills:*

1. S 3360- Educators for America Act
2. S 1202- Keep Our Promise to America’s Children and Teachers (PACT) Act