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Newsletter 9/25/16

1 message

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Mon, Sep 26, 2016 at 12:10 AM

Here is the latest news...





Hey there Educator,
**Do you buy that
 letter I sent you?**
You do?!
**Great! I have a
 bridge to sell you.**

Tell Gov. Christie you don't
 believe his lies and to
FILL THE VACANT SEAT
 on the **School Employees'**
Health Benefits
Commission.

609-292-6000

Letter to NJEA members on Christie's SEHBP lie

Published on Friday, September 23, 2016

Below is the letter that was sent to all NJEA members today in response to Gov. Christie's

letter containing lies about health care premiums:

Dear NJEA member,

Chris Christie is up to his old tricks again, lying to NJEA members in an attempt to divide our membership.

As you may know, NJEA and the Christie administration have been at odds regarding a state-proposed Medicare Advantage change to retiree medical benefits that NJEA opposes

because we believe it is both illegal and likely harmful to retirees. While some other unions have agreed to the change, NJEA has refused, leading to a legal challenge by the state. That fight to protect our members' benefits is ongoing.

Recently, Chris Christie brought this issue up at one of his town hall meetings on school funding. He claimed that, because of NJEA's refusal to give into his demands, our active members will have a larger increase in their premiums than other public employees. That is a blatant lie. He is telling it to try to divide our union, but we won't let that happen.

The premiums paid by active employees in the School Employees' Health Benefits Plan are not related in any way to the level of benefits provided to retired school employees. Whatever the rate increase is for active employees in the SEHBP this year, it has no connection to whether or not NJEA accepts the state's demand to move all Medicare eligible retirees into a Medicare Advantage plan. Chris Christie knows this, but he is lying to you anyway.

Today, we learned that at least some members have been receiving a letter in their school mailboxes that repeat his lie about the premium increase. Don't be fooled. NJEA members still remember the [open letter](#) he released during his first campaign for governor where he promised "I will protect your pensions. Nothing about your pension is going to change when I am governor." When we get letters from the governor seeking to divide us, we know better than to believe him.

If you got that letter, please [click here](#) to send Gov. Christie an email telling him that you don't believe his lies and that you won't let him divide you from your union colleagues.

NJEA will continue fighting to protect the quality of members' health benefits. We will continue working to find ways to make those benefits more affordable without making them less valuable. And we will continue opposing the governor as he tries to illegally impose harmful changes to retiree health benefits.

Sincerely,

*Wendell Steinhauer, President
New Jersey Education Association*

Email Christie about his lies

Did You Know?	
Credits "great public schools," "great teachers" with teaching her how to "make a difference"	Punched his 2nd-grade teacher in the eye because "I didn't think he knew anything about music"
Went undercover in rural Alabama while a law student to expose discrimination in private schools	Sued by US Justice Dept for refusing to rent apartments to Blacks; agreed to desegregate his properties
Established a statewide pre-school program as First Lady of Arkansas	Sued for allegedly defrauding thousands of Trump Univ. students

Education Votes
www.EducationVotes.org

Promising new bill released from Assembly Education Committee

On Thursday, Sept. 15, Marlene Caride (D-36), the Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, introduced a bill, **A-4122**, that would **eliminate the use of statewide standardized test scores from teacher evaluation**. If passed, the bill would remove the Median Student Growth Percentile (mSGP) scores from teacher evaluation for those teachers in tested subjects. On Monday, Sept. 19, the Assembly Education Committee released that bill from committee.

Contact Your Members of the Assembly to Support A-4122

In The News:***Co-Sponsor of A-4122 named Deputy Speaker of General Assembly*****New Jersey Assembly Democrats:Jasey Named Deputy Speaker of General Assembly**

New Jersey Assembly Democrats:Jasey Named Deputy Speaker of General Assembly

Continued>>**continue >>****Rutgers-Eagleton Poll:
Bridgegate-seared Christie Hits
New Ratings Low**

As the Bridgegate trial begins, just 23 percent of New Jersey registered voters now have a favorable opinion of Gov. Chris Christie - down three points since April and seven points in the past year, a new low for the Republican governor who earlier this year took an unsuccessful stab at president.

**Continue>>****EDITORIAL: Never trust a Christie education plan**

Gov. Chris Christie wants to completely revamp how New Jersey funds its schools. So he is asking the state Supreme Court to reconsider a 30-year-old ruling that has done to so much to shape the state's aid formula - five years after the court shot down a similar attempt.



Continued>>

Dim Views of N.J. G.O.P.'s Chances Post-Bridgegate Trial

The trial of two key figures in the lane closure scandal that marked the nadir for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's administration is underway, and some are predicting even longer odds for the N.J. G.O.P.'s eventual gubernatorial nominee in the aftermath.

Continued>>

Op-Ed: What the Public Doesn't Know Can Hurt Our Students, Our Schools - NJ Spotlight

As a community of parents and educators, we must come together to rebuff the politicization of public education

Continued>>



NJEA PAC announces 2016 Congressional endorsements

The New Jersey Education Association's 125-member political action committee has voted to recommend to the National Education Association's (NEA) Fund for Children and Public Education the endorsements of 11 candidates for election to the U.S. Congress, including three Republicans and eight Democrats.

Continue>>

Do You Know Your Legislators? Let Them Know What You Are Thinking.

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| "I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."
By Jimmy Dean

Mary O'Keefe
Government Relations Chair
Monmouth County Education Association