

J. CAMERON HENRY, JR.
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



PHILLIP R. DEVILLIER
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: JULIE BAXTER PAYER, CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
225-342-7646

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JOINT STATEMENT FROM SENATE PRESIDENT CAMERON HENRY AND HOUSE SPEAKER PHILLIP DEVILLIER REGARDING TEACHER PAY RAISES

We are committed as a legislature to coming together to create a permanent solution to providing sustainable teacher pay raises year after year in Louisiana. We recently received the news that our state budget faces a deficit forecast this year and for next year. We heard the voters speak in the recent election. We cannot responsibly turn to one-time money to solve this problem. And we don't want teachers faced with coming year after year to have to ask for another stipend.

It is important to note here that currently within our Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) public school funding formula, we spend \$4 billion of state general fund money and \$2.2 billion from our local communities on public education. In total, Louisiana spends \$13 billion each year on public education, including \$1.8 billion in federal funding, \$4 billion in state general funds and \$6.7 billion in local funding for public schools.

With all this in mind and with the Governor's commitment expressed today to working with our members, we believe that within constitutional guidelines we can forge a path to providing properly appropriated, recurring funds to pay the teacher stipends in this coming year. Then, hopefully, through the work of the task force we are creating in the Senate Concurrent Resolution we are filing today, we will be able to take that funding, possibly adding more, to provide teacher pay raises on a permanent basis going forward in the years ahead, so that we do not find ourselves back in this situation again.

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