

From: [Johnson, Sean \[MD\]](#)
To: [Johnson, Sean \[NEA\]](#)
Subject: FW: Up the Street - April 8
Date: Saturday, April 09, 2016 11:46:46 AM

I understand there may have been a problem in this email getting out to part of the list yesterday. My apologies if you are receiving this legislative update twice.

Thanks,
Sean

Sean Johnson
Assistant Executive Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
Center for Public Affairs
o 443.433.3632
c 410.353.9690
sejohnson@mseanea.org

From: Sean Johnson, Assistant Executive Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
[\[mailto:sejohnson@mseanea.org\]](mailto:sejohnson@mseanea.org)
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2016 2:47 PM
Subject: Up the Street - April 8

Up the Street: MSEA Legislative Updates

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April 8, 2016; Issue 114

THE WEEK THAT WAS IN ANNAPOLIS

? **Testing Measures Move Forward**

While legislation to cap mandated testing at 2% of annual instruction is still stuck in the Senate, a couple of our testing bills are moving forward in the last week of the General Assembly session. Legislation ([HB 657](#)) to change the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment into a sampling test is going to conference committee—which was appointed this week—to work out differences between the House- and Senate-passed versions. At issue is whether to allow school districts to opt into testing all students as long as the test is finished by October 1. Meanwhile, a bill ([HB 412](#)) requiring school districts to annually disclose all mandated testing received final passage from the Senate, 35-11, sending the bill to Gov. Hogan's desk.

? **House of Delegates Passes Earned Sick Leave**

Fourth time the charm? For the first time since being introduced in 2013, [the House of Delegates approved legislation to guarantee at least seven annual paid sick days for all workers](#), except for those who work at small businesses with 14 or fewer

employees, seasonal workers who are employed for fewer than 90 days, and workers under the age of 18. While opponents of the legislation argue that it will kill jobs, [research from other states with the policy provide little evidence to back up the talking point](#). It now moves to the Senate, [where it faces an uphill battle](#).

? **Gov. Hogan Declines to Sign His Own Capital Budget**

Gov. Hogan is quick to take credit for increases in education funding, especially when those increases are already required by law. He does this with school construction funding, too, even though Gov. O'Malley gave more per year to rebuilding school facilities than Hogan has so far. Yet when time came to sign his capital budget into law—which includes more than \$300 million for school construction in FY2017—the governor decided to allow the budget to go into effect [without his signature](#). Why? Because legislators eliminated an appeal process for school construction decisions before the Board of Public Works, commonly referred to as the “Beg-a-thon.” Recently, superintendents argued that Gov. Hogan and Comptroller Franchot have been using the occasion to promote political causes—an act the superintendents called “grandstanding.”

? **Gov. Hogan's State Board of Education Appointees Confirmed**

Despite some troubling backgrounds and clear allegiances to the corporate education reform movement, all of Gov. Hogan's appointees to the State Board of Education were confirmed by the Senate this week. Perhaps the most troubling of the new members is Chester Finn, a former president of the conservative Fordham Institute and co-founder of EdisonLearning, a for-profit education corporation. [Finn recently wrote a plea](#) to right-wing education advocates to oppose Donald Trump because his election could result in Republicans losing seats and therefore stall the rampant expansion of voucher programs, charter schools, and policies “thoroughly unloved by most educators.” He even added an extra attack on unions for good measure: “Indeed, today's deadlocked court failed just last month to overturn the *Friedrichs* decision, a serious blow to reformers in and beyond California who were striving to liberate teachers.”

CAMPAIGN 2016

? **Hillary Clinton Is Coming to Maryland This Weekend**

On Sunday, Hillary Clinton will bring her pro-public education campaign for president to the Baltimore region where she is expected to attend an organizing event and rally supporters. [Click here to RVSP for the rally](#) (City Garage 101 W Dickman St. Baltimore, MD 21230) and then sign up to become an Educator for Hillary at www.strongpublicschools.org.

For a pdf version of this edition of *Up the Street*, [click here](#).

Sean Johnson

Assistant Executive Director of Political and Legislative Affairs
Center for Public Affairs

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140 Main Street
Annapolis MD 21401

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