PRESS RELEASE
President Pro Tempore
Senator Phil Berger

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Senator Berger Press
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Far-left NCAE Leadership Responds to Accusations of Partisanship with False Partisan Attacks

NCAE says teacher strike is necessary because of budget that passed six years ago

Republican leadership has been great for teachers and students, and the far-left NCAE can't stand it

Raleigh, N.C. – After being called out for putting in writing their political goal of electing more Democrats through a teacher strike, the far-left North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) responded on Facebook with more partisan misinformation targeting Republicans designed to mislead their members and the public. Here are the points and counterpoints.

Far-left NCAE: "[Sen. Berger] supported the broken teacher salary schedule, which begins at $35k and caps out at $52k."

Reality: The "broken" teacher salary schedule is a teacher raise. The previous state-funded salary schedule started at $30,800 and ended at $50,000. Because of Republican budgets, teacher pay has increased at the third-highest rate in the country over the last five years.

Far-left NCAE: "The 2013 budget slashed student funding by giving corporate and millionaire tax breaks."
Reality: In 2013, per-pupil spending was $8,645. This year, per-pupil spending is $9,528. It is true that Republicans have increased teacher salaries at the third-highest rate in the country and invested more in education than any time in state history while also cutting taxes for 99% of North Carolina taxpayers. We are proud of that accomplishment.

Far-left NCAE: "It was the 2013 budget that cut textbook funding by 77 million dollars."
Reality: This is false. Here are textbook funding numbers for the last ten years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Majority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 08-09</td>
<td>$100,652,409</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 09-10</td>
<td>$111,162,790</td>
<td>Democratic</td>
</tr>
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<td>FY 10-11</td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 11-12</td>
<td>$23,431,227</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 12-13</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 18-19</td>
<td>$73,726,396</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Far-left NCAE: "The policies enacted by the 2013 General Assembly have been devastating to public school children, particularly our most vulnerable students."
Reality: Graduation rates since 2013 are up four percentage points. Since Republicans took control of the General Assembly, graduation rates are up 8.4 percentage points and the gap in graduation rates between African American students and all students has been cut in half. Since 2011, the number of adults with Bachelor's degrees has increased by 27 percent, and the number of African American women with Bachelor's degrees has increased by 42 percent.

Far-left NCAE: The 2013 budget "dismantled decades of progress in public education."
Reality: State-funded education spending has increased every year Republicans have controlled the legislature. The graduation rate has increased by four percentage points since 2013, and by 8.4 percentage points since 2011.

Far-left NCAE: "It was the 2013 budget that eliminated the NC Teaching Fellows."
Reality: That is true. What the far-left NCAE fails to disclose, though, is that Republicans created the new Teaching Fellows program in 2017 which serves high-need areas of the state and subject areas that need more teachers, as reported annually by DPI.

Far-left NCAE: "It was the 2013 budget that cut classroom supply funding by 45 billion [sic] dollars."
Reality: In 2012-13, classroom supplies funding was $50.1 million. In 2013-14, classroom supplies funding was $43.8 million.

Far-left NCAE: "[Sen. Berger] supported the NC voucher program, diverting millions of dollars to private schools from our starving school districts."
Reality: The NCAE ignores the fact that the legislature allocates money to school districts based on enrollment. Regardless of how many students attend private or charter schools, public schools still receive the same amount of funding for each student enrolled in public schools. Republicans believe that every child deserves the opportunity to attend the best school that fits his or her individual gifts, and that family income should never stand in the way. Republicans will never apologize or back down from that position.

Far-left NCAE: "[Sen. Berger has] rejected attempts to provide living wages to our classified employees."

Reality: Last year, North Carolina became the first state in the country to increase the minimum wage for state employees to $15 per hour. All state-funded employees also received a two percent raise.

Far-left NCAE: "[Sen. Berger has] prevented expanding health insurance to our poorest students and families."

Reality: Every child in the United States is eligible for Medicaid if family income is below 138% of the federal poverty line.

Far-left NCAE: "The policies of 2013 have taken their toll."

Reality: Yes, they have. And the evidence is clear: teacher pay is way up, education spending is way up, graduation rates are way up, the number of adults with Bachelor's degrees is way up, and employment is way up.

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