



# LEGISLATIVE *Update*

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## **Broken Promises in Tuesday's House Budget Release *Senate Budget Expected Next Week***

In advance of the House budget release this Tuesday, SEANC leaders were putting the pressure on House Republicans to keep the promises they made in the budget passed last year – especially in regard to state employee pay raises and retiree cost-of-living adjustments. Both in Raleigh at the General Assembly and from the SEIU convention in Denver, SEANC leaders and lobbyist were hard at work. They pulled Republican House members from the floor session to lobby one-on-one, but also took to phones, email, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to pressure House Republicans to keep the promises they made and do the right thing by workers and retirees.

After nine long hours of floor lobbying and debate, the House voted on and passed their version of the [\\$20.3 billion budget](#). The N.C. House budget breaks two major promises made to SEANC members in the 2011 budget.

### **First Broken Promise**

Instead of a raise in base pay, House leaders offer a one-time bonus of \$250 to each state employee. The 2011 budget tagged \$121 million specifically for pay raises for state employees, a promise made in law. Instead, this week's House budget opts to use that money to backfill cuts in education and fill holes in other areas of the budget, once again on the backs of state employees.

### **Second Broken Promise**

Just over \$62 million in investment gains from the N.C. Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System would translate to a modest 1.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment for the state's retirees, who haven't received an increase of any kind since 2008. Since this amount resulted from investment gains in the system, funding this cost-of-living adjustment would require nothing additional from taxpayers. Instead, lawmakers propose using those funds to prop up other parts of the state budget. The House budget included no cost-of-living adjustment whatsoever.

In addition to contacting legislators directly [SEANC ran a radio ad in Raleigh](#) to ask the House GOP to keep their retirement promise to seniors.

The House budget has been sent to the Senate and SEANC will be focused on pushing for the best outcome possible for state employees and retirees. We will update you on the progress of the Senate budget next week.

We appreciate all members who contacted House Speaker Thom Tillis and their legislators. Members should remember that this is only the second step in the budget dance and nothing is final until the governor signs the measure into law after the House and Senate both pass their budgets, negotiate the differences and come to an agreement before voting on a final budget. Please [contact your senator](#) and tell them how important pay raises and cost-of-living adjustments are!