



# Retired News

*Information for FEA Retired Members*

**July/August 2025**

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**1. FEA Celebrates a Victory for Educators and Students in the US House Armed Services Committee.** During the House Armed Services Committee's mark-up the National Defense Authorization Act, amendments that NEA/FEA advocated for, passed. One blocks the administration from terminating employees of DoDEA schools or Department of Defense childcare facilities. Another restores the bargaining rights for DoDEA and DoD federal employees. Those rights were restricted by a Trump administration executive order earlier this year. To register your support for FEA, visit: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/take-action/restore-collective-bargaining-department-defense-education-activity-schools>

**2. How Easy Is It to Lobby Congress? The answer—it's very easy and literally takes seconds.**

- First visit the NEA Legislative Action Center (<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/take-action?>)
- Find an issue on that page that you support and click the red "Email Congress" box. (There are many issues on this site like supporting FEA, funding special education, and supporting military connected students.)
- Fill in the demographic information and click "next." You are done. If you click the "Fast Action" box, you won't have to complete the demographic information on future emails.

**3. Congress Approves School Voucher Bill.** This new law will require States to opt into the program. The new federal program will reward people who make charitable donations to what are known as Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs). Their reward: a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. The SGO would then distribute the donated money in the form of scholarships for students to use on a range of expenses, including tuition, books and certain homeschooling costs. This federal version won't be limited to lower-income families. Instead, it will be available to households earning at or below 300% of a given area's median gross income. So, in an area of the country where the median gross income is \$75,000, any child in a household earning less than \$225,000 could qualify. The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation estimates the vouchers could cost the federal government almost \$26 billion in lost tax revenue over the next decade. For more information, visit: <https://www.npr.org/2025/07/18/nx-s1-5459784/trump-school-college-student#vouchers>

**4. Federal Judge Blocks Executive Order Targeting Federal Employee Unions.** A federal judge in San Francisco has indefinitely blocked an executive order by the President that aimed to eliminate collective bargaining rights for over one million federal employees. Judge James Donato granted a preliminary injunction requested by several unions, finding that the unions had raised serious First Amendment concerns and faced likely irreparable harm if the order were enforced. Donato's ruling conflicts with a May decision by the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, which allowed similar provisions of the order to proceed in a separate case involving another union. Judge Donato questioned whether national security concerns override constitutional protections, pointing to a White House fact sheet that appeared to target unions for opposing the administration's policies. The administration may appeal the ruling to the 9th Circuit, while litigation over the order's legality continues. FEA/NEA have also filed a suit in Federal court over this Executive Order.

**5. DoDDS Reunion a Huge Success in Reno, Nevada.** Over 430 retired DoDDS educators attended the annual reunion in Reno this year. It was a great opportunity to connect with friends and colleagues and to get caught up on the news around the world. There were presentations on the Federal health insurance programs, the American Overseas Schools Historical Society and Federal legislation. Next year's reunion will be July 13-17, 2026, near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The website, with more information, will be updated soon ([www.mydoddsreunion.com](http://www.mydoddsreunion.com)).



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