



# Retired NEWS

*Information for FEA Retired Members*

**April 2026**

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## **1. Update on what's happening with the US Dept. of Education.**

On February 27th, NEA joined a lawsuit brought by a coalition of unions, school districts, and nonprofit groups challenging the Department of Education's (ED) discontinuation of \$132 million in Full Service Community Schools grants, which support district programs to provide academic, social, and health services for students, families, and communities at high-poverty schools. The lawsuit claims that ED did not follow the legally required process to cancel the grants and that the discontinuations violated the First Amendment by targeting grants that allegedly promoted disfavored DEI activities.

On February 26th, the Ninth Circuit denied ED's motion to stay a district court order in a case brought by 15 state Attorneys General, which requires the Department to reconsider its termination of 138 School-Based Mental Health grants in the plaintiff states. The order followed the district court's final decision that the discontinuations were unlawful. The Ninth Circuit held that ED was not likely to show that the district court erred in finding the cancellations illegal and therefore must comply with its order.

## **2. NEA opposes the "SAVE America Act S-1383," which suppresses voting.**

This bill requires in-person registration—with a birth certificate, passport, or naturalization papers—at state elections offices, whether voters are registering for the first time or updating information, such as an address. Those disenfranchised by this bill would include lower-income Americans, who are less likely to have passports, eligible voters who are hospitalized or have disabilities, and many others. This would be extremely burdensome for many people, including those who live a long distance from elections offices, have no access to their "papers," or can no longer register online or by mail. The SAVE America Act would disenfranchise married women and others who have changed their names and have documents that don't match their current legal name. To let Congress know how you feel, visit: <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/take-action/save-america-act-threatens-our-freedom-vote>

## **3. Alesia Gladden (Ms. Lee) retired FEA member from Ft. Campbell hits the ground running for building membership at the NEA-Retired Spring Conference.**

Ms. Lee was the first Educational Support Professional to attend this conference for FEA. She found the conference to be knowledgeable, exciting and fun—an inspiring reminder that our sense of community and purpose doesn't end when we retire. Ms. Lee has already been in contact with FEA-Washington to streamline the membership process for joining FEA-Retired. As a military veteran, Ms. Lee has never stopped serving others.

## **4. NEA opposes H.R. 7661, a book banning bill.**

This bill is aimed at distracting and dividing Americans by restricting whose stories are allowed on bookshelves, and using threats to funding as an enforcement tool. In effect, the legislation makes Congress the "national school board," taking decision-making away from local school boards, educators, and families. Its vague wording would cause confusion and misinterpretation that would harm the healthy communication channels that exist between educators—professionals with experience and expertise—and parents. The language could even impact how subjects such as health, science, and art are taught and discussed. This bill is not about protecting students, but to exclude voices that lawmakers do not like or with whom they disagree.

## **5. Federal Income Tax Time is Weeks Away.**

As we get busy collecting our paperwork for filing our taxes, don't forget NEA Member Benefits (<http://neamb.com>) has several publications on tax preparation for retirees. They also offer discounts on tax preparation software. After logging in, click the "Benefits and Discounts" in the top banner, and then click on "NEA Discount Market Place." Then, near the bottom of the page (where it says "Find a Store"), type the word "tax" in the search browser to see the various discounts offered on several software programs.



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