



# SMITH HILL REPORT

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## Budget Hearings

The House Finance Committee has scheduled hearings for the articles of the FY 2011 State Budget. The following hearings are scheduled next week on issues of interest to the RIFTHP membership.

Tuesday, February 23, 1:00 PM - Article 13 - This is the education aid article that would maintain the 3% funding reduction first proposed in January. This article fails to restore State funding for teacher professional development. The article also begins a tuition payment process whereby school districts pay the cost of educating students attending the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Tuesday, February 23, Rise - Article 29. This article would direct the Board of Governors of Higher Education to develop a plan to assume responsibility for Channel 36 and the Higher Education Assistance Authority.

Wednesday, February 24 - Article 32. This article would increase the amount of money available to subsidize corporate tax credits for private and parochial school contributions. The amount budgeted would rise from \$1 million to \$2 million.

## Bill Introductions House Bills

- **Public Television Study Commission**  
(H7056 Naughton, House Constituent Services)  
This resolution would create an eleven (11) member special legislative study commission whose purpose it would be to make a comprehensive study of public television in the State of Rhode Island, and who would report back to the House of Representatives no later than April 29, 2010, and whose life would expire on June 30, 2010. The RIFTHP seeks an **amendment** to add a labor representative to the commission.
- **Notification Date Change – May 15**  
(SH7143 Gablinski, House Labor)  
The RIFTHP **opposes** this bill which would amend the notification requirements regarding the dismissal, suspension or lay-off of teachers in the event of a fiscal exigency or program reorganization.
- **Education Funding Formula**  
(H7123 Corvese, House Finance)  
The RIFTHP **supports** this act which would establish a permanent education foundation aid formula for calculating State Aid to public education.
- **Certification Standards Board**  
(H7453 Lima, House Health, Education and Welfare)  
The RIFTHP **supports** this act which would amend the composition and the duties of the Rhode Island Certification Standards Board. It would change the current Advisory Board to the Policy Board on Teacher and Administrator Certification.
- **Westerly Mandate Relief**  
(H7336 Azzinaro, House Finance)  
The RIFTHP **opposes** this bill which would relieve the town of Westerly from unfunded State mandates.

# Injury To One – Is Injury To ALL

## *Please Join Our Fight*

The Commissioner of Education Deborah Gist and the Superintendent of Schools in Central Falls Frances Gallo have decided to fire all 74 teachers at Central Falls High School.

- This action is being taken after teacher evaluations were performed over the past 2 years and not one teacher was placed on any form of corrective action.
- This action is being taken without following due process procedures
- This is a direct attack on collective bargaining rights

This outrageous act is being used simply to ‘bust’ the union – it has nothing to do with helping students.

## Please Come to a Union

# RALLY FOR FAIRNESS

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

5:00 PM @ Jenks Park

Broad Street, Central Falls

To learn more call the RIAFL•CIO at 401.751.7100  
or log onto [www.CentralFallsKidsDeserveBetter.com](http://www.CentralFallsKidsDeserveBetter.com)