  Dear DKG Sister, We are on the downhill side of the 2016 Session of the Indiana General Assembly, however there are many bills that we CAN NOT allow to slide by, concerning public education, active teachers, retired teachers and especially the students whom we serve.  As of last week, bills have "flipped" to the other house for action.  This is why your action is so important.  You are receiving this notice as a local chapter president, and we request that you or your legislative chairperson, forward to your chapter membership this Legislative Action Alert and further alerts that you receive.  It is important that all alerts are responded to in a timely manner, as communication with legislators does produce results and you often receive a personal response.

     Information is gathered from a number of educational groups, including The Education Opportunity Network, The Indiana State Teachers Association, The Indiana Retired Teachers Association, The Indiana Coalition for Public Education, AFT, and the National Education Association.  In addition, our two previous chairpersons, Sherry Watkins and Roni Embrey share information that they receive through their conference attendance for the Association of University Women and the DKG National Forum in Washington, DC.

     It is vitally important that legislators hear from you.  This may be by calling, letters, email or in person.  \*  PLEASE NOTE: IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER TO BE PART OF OUR ANNUAL DKG LOBBYING DAY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016, HELD AT THE ISTA CENTER, 150 WEST MARKET STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, with registration at 10 a.m. on the 2nd. floor. Free coffee and donuts will be furnished by the ISTA-Retired Association and lunch will be served at noon at no charge by ISTA.  Please invite your legislator to join you.  Register at <https://ista-in.org> tomorrow.  A briefing will begin at 10:30 a.m. A folder will be furnished to each participant and you are encouraged to write notes to deliver to your legislator at the statehouse across the street, prior to lunch.  A short DKG meeting will be held following lunch, with a picture taken for inclusion in the Hoosier Newsette.)

     For those unable to attend, please send some type of communication.  If you need help in finding out about your legislator, go the the Indiana General Assembly website,

[iga.in.gov](http://iga.in.gov) and look for Find Your Legislator.  The mailing address for the House of Representatives is: Indiana House of Representatives, 200 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786, [(317-232-9600](tel:%28317-232-9600), [(800)-382-9842](tel:%28800%29-382-9842).  When calling, an aide will take your message and hand deliver to your legislator.  Senate: (same street address) [(317)-232-9400](tel:%28317%29-232-9400),

[(800) 382-9467](tel:%28800%29%20382-9467)

     Please contact your legislators NOW concerning HB 1004 (Rep. Bob Behning-Indianapolis)  Mandatory School Health Plans/Stipends for a Select Group of Teachers/Defined Contribution.  This bill would allow a school corporation to unilaterally offer supplemental compensation in excess of the negotiated salary to a teacher "who is, or will be" employed in a position that is "difficult to fill."  It would also establish a new Defined Contribution (DC) retirement plan for new teachers, using the rationale that Millennials don't believe they will be in the same job their entire career and so giving them a pension means little.  Incredibly, this is being proposed as a means to solve Indiana's teacher shortage!  What this theory actually reflects is a total disregard for teaching as a profession.  To prove this point, teachers and others were NOT allowed to speak before a vote was taken by the Senate Education Committee on Thursday, sending it to the full Senate for a vote.

     Thanks for your support.  More alerts will follow.  We hope to see you Tuesday!  DKG Legislative Committee, Rosemary Moore, Beta Mu, Sandy Bennett, Beta Phi, Rachel Gibson, Alpha Omega and Jo Ann Manes, AES President, Beta Delta, ex officio.