

UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT WAIVER

First of all, PGCEA wants to thank all members who took the time to send e-mails this weekend to County Council members about the Maintenance of Effort Waiver Request. Your response was outstanding and caused the members of the Council to consider other options as part of the budget process. Several council members referenced the several hundred e-mails they received over the weekend. That was **ALL** due to PGCEA members responding to our Call to Action.

The Council did vote 7 to 1 to sign off on the requested waiver, however, many of them made it clear that they were doing so, not because they felt this was the only alternative, but rather because of the deadline imposed by the legislation governing a waiver request. Those rules require that a request must be submitted in writing to the State Board of Education by April 1.

So, from the perspective of some council members, they did not have enough time to fully consider the County Executive's request or to consider alternatives. The majority also seem to feel that, as part of the budget process, they now have the ability to look at the budget as a whole to determine if they can shift priorities and make other cuts, and reduce the requested amount of the waiver from \$23.6 million.

Please understand this is the first of several Calls to Actions that PGCEA will make to members, employees and community partners as we voice our concern over any more cuts in education funding. Please continue to check our website for additional updates and other Calls to Action in the near future.

Again, thank you for responding in the manner that you did. PGCEA also wants to send out a special thanks to Councilmember Ingrid Turner (imturner@co.pg.md.us) who voted "No" to the request. Please take the time to send her an e-mail and thank her for her position not to support the waiver request.