



*State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*

*20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-0301*

October 18, 2019

The Hon. Tim Moore
Speaker
North Carolina House of Representatives
16 West Jones Street, Room 2304
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

The Hon. Philip E. Berger
President Pro Tempore
North Carolina Senate
16 West Jones Street, Room 2007
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Speaker Moore and Senator Berger:

You have announced that the General Assembly intends to conclude its business by October 31st. As you well know, we still have numerous outstanding issues that we should address through a comprehensive budget negotiation. However, you have refused to negotiate on the budget and decided instead to pass piecemeal mini budgets. This is not an effective way to meet the state's needs and I still stand ready to receive a counteroffer from you to my budget compromise offer of July 8th.

Should you choose to stay on your current path to pursue a mini budget to raise the salaries of public educators, it is important that we work together to find a compromise to avoid further delay in much-needed raises for these educators.

Democratic members of the General Assembly and I have been clear that the raises proposed in HB 966 for these educators are insufficient to keep our state competitive in recruiting and retaining teachers for our students. My budget called for a raise of 9.1% for K-12 teachers. However, my compromise of July 8th lowered the K-12 teacher raise to 8.5%. The compromise also included raises of 5% for non-certified local school personnel and UNC system employees, and 4% for community college employees.

Speaker Moore and Senator Berger

October 18, 2019

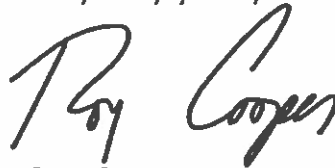
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I welcome an opportunity to find a mutually agreeable solution on educator pay before the conclusion of this session that you can pass and that I can sign. For now, I am willing to have that discussion independent of other elements of the budget. I have attached a document comparing the teacher pay raises between your budget and my compromise.

Please let me know if you are willing to work on this issue to ensure that teachers and other educators can get much deserved and overdue raises.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "C".

Roy Cooper

cc: The Honorable Dan Blue
The Honorable Darren Jackson