



Dear SDSEO Member:

I want to encourage all of you to come to the Legislature and testify on your behalf at the Feb. 8 state employee compensation budget hearing. You need you.

I will be there to support you. Look for me and come sit by or nearby if you want.

The hearing is set to run from 9:45 a.m.-10:45 a.m. It will be in room 362. I will lead off for you in public testimony at the end of the hearing. You won't have to go first. Email me if you have questions or want to attend. I've been doing this for 11 years now and, frankly, I expect to get the run-around and end up not being able to do any public testimony until late that day or even the next day. My prediction is that there will be Appropriations bill hearings set for 11, and the Bureau of Human Resources will take up all the hearing time.

BUT I will try to talk to whomever will chair the hearing and try to make sure they wrap up in time to give us public comment before 10:45 a.m. I can't make any promises about it happening, though. It depends on who is running the hearing AND on how many of you show up. If there's a show of strength on behalf of yourself, it's an entirely different ballgame and it will be practically impossible to push us back. Share this email with all your colleagues.

There are no budget hearing documents posted yet. Look here for them in the next 2 days: <https://sdlegislature.gov/Budget/Documents>. When they are posted, they might be under the Bureau of Human Resources, or they could have their own separate heading, which would be something like "State Employee Compensation."

If you're not comfortable devising your own personal statement, use this one: "Honorable representatives and senators, my name is RRR, I'm a voting constituent of District RRR. I have been a state employee for RRR years. I love serving the state. It's not just a pass-through job. It is my career. But I need your support. I don't get to see you every day in the halls and meeting rooms, because my job has me elsewhere, so I'm here today to ask you, please help. It's no small feat to come here today. I'm sure you are aware. Thank you. If you have any questions about me or my family and what we need, not my specific job or department, because I can't answer those, please ask. Thank you."

You don't need to dig into numbers or history. You only need to tell your personal story, just a couple minutes of you. Nobody else can do that. I hope to see you there.

Keep the faith and keep up the fight.

Make sure to spread the word about the SDSEO and encourage membership. Membership is \$10/month. You're likely going to go out with co-workers on lunch or after work: Maybe offer to pay for their lunch that one time (you're probably going to anyway at some point, since you're a South Dakotan) and encourage them to join the SDSEO, which likely costs less than 1 work lunch a month.

To help out with recruiting, I've attached SDSEO recruitment/info docs. (For the Investment Trust brochure, the Reinke Gray email contact is [bettejo@reinkegray.com](mailto:bettejo@reinkegray.com). They have changed their email address.)

We added two new members this week! Spread the good word.

Make sure to let me know if you experience any problems at all as a state employee. Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/my.SDSEO/>. Our Facebook gets lots of traffic and comments, so try to check it out. Our Twitter handle: @MySDSEO

**SDSEO 2023 bill list attached to email**

Sincerely, Eric Ollila, Executive Director, South Dakota State Employees Organization