

Kelly Payne for Superintendent of Education

Press Release

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Kelly Payne Says No to Cutting our Teacher's Pay

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Kelly Payne, candidate for State Superintendent of Education lashed out at Jim Rex today by floating the idea that the state's national certification program for teachers be looked at as a possible cut due to the state's budget woes. "Our state's superintendent is suggesting that teacher pay be cut once again?" said Payne. "Non-classroom expenditures need to be cut, not classroom funding." Out of all the programs and all the administrative services, I cannot believe that there aren't other programs other than teacher pay that can be cut.

The value of National Board Certification has raised the standard of education in our state. South Carolina has something to be proud of we rank 3rd in the nation with 7,298 Nationally Board Certified Teachers. Our state is recognized nationally and compares us to National Standards. The process of becoming a Nationally Board Certified Teacher creates a more reflective teacher. The research necessary to become Nationally Board Certified prepares the teacher to use research-based instruction, continue professional training, and education throughout his or her career.

Research shows that nearly half of South Carolina's 1st year teachers leave the classroom. The number one reason cited is a lack of support. National Board Certified Teachers have created a network of mentoring for non-NBCT's who are seeking peer support.

Payne stated, "If you strengthen the classroom teacher, you strengthen the entire school, particularly in low-achieving schools. Improvement should start first in the classroom. South Carolina needs an inside-out approach and bottom-to-top decision making that currently isn't in place or encouraged. Strengthening first within the schools will elevate the status of teachers, and then in turn they'll mentor their peers. It's a positive chain reaction. If this funding is removed, South Carolina may run the risk of losing their highly qualified teachers.

National Board Funding is approximately \$6m a year. The benefits of this program far exceed the costs. Out of the billions of dollars we spend in education, surely Jim Rex can find \$6 million dollars some where else and not on the backs of our teachers."