



**THE FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE MEMBER PLEDGE
TO IMPROVE TEACHER AND EDUCATION STAFF PROFESSIONAL SALARIES**

WHEREAS the Florida Constitution states,

*The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, **a paramount duty of the state** to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education...*

WHEREAS every state lawmaker, upon being sworn into office, solemnly swears to uphold and defend the Florida Constitution;

WHEREAS, according to the National Rankings of the States 2017 report, the average annual salary for Florida's teachers ranks 45th in the country;

WHEREAS, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics 2017 report, the average salaries of education staff professionals, such as bus drivers and teacher's aides, ranks no higher than 45th in the country;

WHEREAS, according to the National Association of State Budget Offices, Florida's budget has grown 13 percent since fiscal year 2015, or \$10 billion;

WHEREAS, according to Florida TaxWatch, Florida's budgets have included nearly \$600 million in wasteful spending over the past four fiscal years;

WHEREAS the growth in the state budget and/or the allocation of state tax dollars could have been harnessed to increase the status of public education and, in particular, the salaries of teachers and education staff professionals *without* raising taxes;

Be it hereby declared that I _____, a member of the Florida State Legislature, do solemnly pledge that I will only vote for and support budgets and policies that ensure Florida's teachers and education staff professionals will be paid *at least* the national average by Fiscal Year 2023.

Signature