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## Local teachers' group forms to back Mulvaney Senate bid

By From release

INDIAN LAND – A group of local teachers has formed Teachers for Mulvaney, a group that says it's committed to advancing state Rep. Mick Mulvaney's efforts to put more dollars into the classroom and improve academic achievement for South Carolina school children.

"I have been overwhelmed with the support and am especially proud to have some of them put this group together," Mulvaney said in a release.

Mulvaney, R-District 45, is seeking the state Senate seat being vacated by Greg Gregory of Lancaster. Mulvaney, an Indian Land businessman, faces Democrat Mandy Powers Norrell, a lawyer from Lancaster, in the Nov. 4 election.

"Mick's campaign for Senate is focused on the issues that matter to teachers," said Garrett Hammond, a teacher at Lancaster's Brooklyn Springs Elementary school, and the group co-chair. "I hear people saying he is against public schools. But he fought for more money for teachers. He fought for more money in the classroom. He worked to get rid of PACT. That's the stuff that matters to me as a teacher." And that is the message that we want to get out."

Mulvaney said he was one of the first supporters of eliminating the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test and replacing it with a test that gives teachers faster, more complete results.

Mulvaney also said he supports comprehensive funding reforms, merit pay raises for teachers and expanded parental choice. He said he was the primary co-sponsor of state Superintendent Jim Rex's Public School Choice bill, which would introduce choice in the form of single-gender, year-round and other alternative-method schools without vouchers or tax credits.

"I am especially proud of the work he did to help charter schools, which are entirely public," said Emilee Bailey, a teacher at Lancaster's Discovery School and the group's other chair. "Discovery School has been a tremendous success within the public education system. Mick worked hard to expand charters so that we can get this very effective tool in the hands of more parents."

Teachers for Mulvaney is also supportive of Mulvaney's vote last year against the permanent and automatic doubling of cost-of-living-adjustment guarantees to state retirees.

"He was one of the few who understood how current teachers might be affected, especially if our required contributions go up," Hammond said. "That's money out of our pocket."

Mulvaney said he's grateful to receive the backing of the new group.

Teachers and other educators interested in getting involved can e-mail Emilee Bailey at [baileye2@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:baileye2@mailbox.sc.edu).

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