

Tell Senator: Stop Blaming Teachers

Urge Assembly to Defeat Steinberg “Favoritism” Bill

Your help is needed to defeat the newest version of a measure that would ignore the real needs of students and public education – adequate and stable funding – and blame teachers for the system’s ills.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) has authored SB 1285, a CTA-opposed measure that again will make it easier to lay off experienced teachers from lower-performing schools and undermine local control. On top of that, the measure is completely unnecessary because state law already gives school districts flexibility in layoff procedures to best meet the needs of students. CTA continues to battle against these attacks on the protections against discrimination and favoritism, including seniority.

Quick contacts are needed with members of the Assembly Education Committee, which is scheduled to take up SB 1285 as early as June 30.

Contact your lawmaker by texting CTASUMMER to 69866 and following the prompts.*

Background

The battle against SB 1285 (Steinberg) continues CTA’s fight against measures such as SB 955 (Huff) that would undermine the due process rights of teachers and other protections against discrimination and favoritism.

Both SB 955 and SB 1285 ignore the real problem – the chronic and devastating underfunding of public education that has been slashed by more than \$17 billion already.

SB 1285 would prevent local districts from assigning teachers where they are needed most when they are hired. It would also allow districts to lay off experienced teachers in lower-performing schools and totally ignore seniority when rehiring laid-off teachers in Decile 1-3 schools.

That provision would allow district officials to practice favoritism and discrimination. They could decide not to hire back a more expensive teacher or a teacher who has been a vocal advocate of student needs.

The most important thing lawmakers could do to ensure every student a high quality education would be to provide the adequate funding that schools need that would allow them to retain experienced teachers, keep libraries open; hire back laid-off teachers, nurses, and counselors; and reduce class sizes to provide students with the individual attention they need.

CTA Coordinators: Contact Lawmakers

Get in touch with your state Assembly Member and the members of the Assembly Education Committee. Mobilize your colleagues, friends, family members, and school supporters to do the same.

- Urge Assembly Education to oppose SB 1285 and support more funding for schools.

Copy Sen. Steinberg on your letter. When you use the CTA text system, if your Assembly Member is not on the Education Committee, you will be routed to Assembly Ed. Chair Julia Brownley.

- Tell lawmakers SB 1285 is unnecessary, undermines a local school district's ability to do what is best for its students, and fosters favoritism and discrimination against teachers.
- Tell lawmakers how the cuts are affecting your students! Let them know empowering districts to practice favoritism won't help students.

For more information, contact CTA Legislative Advocate Seth Bramble or GR Communications Consultant Len Feldman at 916.325.1500.