

LegAlert



29 June 2010



Brownley “Compromise” is Still Bad **Urge Assembly to Defeat SB 1285 to Help Students**

Assembly Education Chair Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica) is proposing to amend a CTA-opposed bill by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento) that would undermine teacher seniority and harm students by ensuring that less experienced teachers – instead of more experienced ones – would be working with students in Decile 1-3 schools. Assembly Member Brownley is aiming to amend SB 1285 (Steinberg) during a June 30 Assembly Education Committee meeting. *Your continued help is needed now to urge Assembly Education Members and your Assembly Member to kill the measure.*

Background

Assembly Member Brownley has negotiated with Senator Steinberg to limit the substance of the bill to:

1. Clarify that districts can skip over less senior teachers during layoffs for purposes of achieving compliance with constitutional requirements related to equal protection of the laws “as it applies to pupils and to certificated employees.”
2. Nullify layoffs at a Decile 1-3 school if a school district attempts to implement more layoffs at the Decile 1-3 school than at other schools in the district.

The amendments will lead to the retention of junior teachers who have been assigned, in the discretion of management, to low-performing schools. These schools would be better served by recruiting and retaining senior teachers. Even amended, SB 1285 does not change the long-term reality that working conditions at hard to staff schools cause numerous teachers to voluntarily leave teaching, regardless of layoffs. Worse yet, the measure ignores the real problem – the chronic and devastating underfunding of public education that has slashed public school appropriations

by more than \$17 billion already.

Lawmakers should ensure every student a high quality education by providing the adequate funding that schools need. Adequate funding would allow them to keep libraries open; hire back laid-off teachers, nurses, and counselors; and reduce class sizes to provide students with needed individual attention.

Page 2 of this Alert contains the names and contact information for the members of the Assembly Education Committee.

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 Education Committee, you will be routed to speak with Assembly Ed. Chair Julia Brownley.*

✓ *Tell lawmakers SB 1285 will be counterproductive, keeping primarily less experienced teachers working at challenged schools.*

✓ *Tell lawmakers how the cuts are affecting your students! Let them know empowering districts to practice favoritism won't help students.*

Call your lawmaker by using CTA's new text-to-call system. (Note: your phone carrier may impose a slight text message charge.) Text 69866 and enter ctasummer. You will be prompted to enter your name, voting address and then you will be connected to your Senator.

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

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