



SB 643 A

Employee Transfers

AFSCME Council 75 is requesting your support for SB 643 A. This legislation comes to you after a strong vote in the Senate with only 2 "No" votes.

SB 643A makes a simple change in current law. The change will expand current protections to education employees covering the transfer public services and the employee's ability to move with the programs, when those services or programs are transferred to other public employers.

We currently represent the classified employees at the Multnomah Education Service District. As changes occur in the ESD System and consolidations and mergers are contemplated it makes sense to maintain a qualified and experienced work force. Allowing the employees to "follow their work" is not just the right thing to do for these long term employees and the clients they work with but it is good policy for the system. This allows for the retention of an experienced, competent and reliable workforce that would otherwise be displaced requiring the recruitment of new untrained workers with little experience with the difficult clients managed by the ESD's.

In the education debates around the changing of the ESD system we feel there is a basic lack of understanding about the challenging needs of students for whom we provide educational services. Our students require extraordinary staff time and expertise. We assist and manage students with exceptional behavior, medical needs, severe physical disabilities and mental challenges. It is the job of our members to be sure that every student receives all of the educational opportunities that any other student in Oregon can expect.

SB 643 simply gives the employees the right to move with their clients and continue to provide the services that they have been providing prior to changes in the employer status.

We urge your support of this legislation and passage to the House floor for concurrence. I am happy to respond to questions.

Mary Botkin,
Oregon AFSCME