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For the record, my name is Suzy Brenton. I am a teacher from Portland. I am writing to ask you to support SB292

For two years I experienced an unhealthy workplace. The principal was transferred to my school because she was having problems with her staff. I witnessed her divide the staff against each other and then regularly abuse those who she perceived were against her. At least 12 of about 30 staff members left their jobs as a result of impossible working conditions. We were intimidated, falsely accused of wrongdoing, yelled at and ridiculed among other abuses.

Here are some of the stories.

One teacher retired early instead of work for the new principal.

The secretary was required to stand and greet the principal when she came into the office. After continual hostility from the principal the secretary sought counseling. She felt suicidal and paranoid. Eventually she left the school.

"She came running at me screaming like a madwoman", said the librarian when she voluntarily gave her time to help in the cafeteria.

The principal's loyal teachers spoke openly about whom they wanted to get rid of and were openly hostile to the staff who were not "loyal."

An impromptu staff meeting was called to take turns condemning a teacher who allegedly grabbed a student by the arm.

A respected teacher was cornered when she was alone. The principal attacked her for being a bad teacher. "I'm going to be your shadow and I'm going to follow you everywhere."

During a meeting that I was not invited to, I was falsely accused of treating an emotionally handicapped student badly as well as failing to follow some district procedures. It was meant to intimidate.

The principal would unlock classrooms to spy on the teacher when not in the room.

The principal wrote a fictional book where teachers were easily identified and ridiculed.

Students suffered because adults were distracted and not able to be their best.

Several of us spoke to the principal directly about our concerns, and then went on to her supervisor. He told us we didn't understand her sense of humor and did not offer any relief.

None of us qualified as a protected class under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. We had no recourse for the constant abuse. Please support SB292. Everyone deserves to be legally protected in the workplace.

Thank you for taking up this important issue.

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