

Submitter: L Duda
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure: SB1521

First of all, I have to say that the use of 'Emergency' on so many of the bills this past couple years is troubling. This is NOT an emergent situation.

I am troubled by the fact that you want to take local control away from our school boards. School board members are members of that particular community and are elected by that community. Their job is to support the needs and values of that community in their school system. Our communities are not all alike in our make-up, values and what we feel is important to teach our children and we should be able to, through our school board make those independent decisions for what is good for our specific community. By passing this bill, SB1521 you are taking that control away. You are telling not only the school board that they really have no use, but you are also telling us, the voters and members of the community that we don't matter either and we just need to sit down and shut up. What comes to mind if this passes, is, if a school board said that they wanted their children to be proficient in math and reading so that they could be successful in life and up the standards for graduation. The superintendent could say 'No'. You, our legislators passed SB744 stating that our children don't have to be proficient in these subjects to graduate anymore. You would be telling that community that they should lower their standards because the state has. I see no good coming from this.

Saying that the school board needs to give the superintendent 12 months' notice of termination is absurd. I have never heard of another instance where you are required to give a year's notice of termination. If they are not doing their job as the school board sees fit, then they need to go and not go in 1 year. Remember this is an AT WILL employment state. They should get the same courtesy that I would from a boss - maybe 2 weeks. As a taxpayer I also don't want to pay someone another year's salary when they aren't doing the job that their 'employers' want them to do. Only in the public sector would this ever fly.

I urge you to terminate this bill and not take it any further as it will hurt our communities and children irreparably.