

Leta Howard

From: Sandra Shaw <shawsax@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 7, 2015 8:10 PM
To: Leta Howard
Subject: SB 280

Hello,

A passionate band and orchestra teacher in the public schools these past 27 years, I have depended on a Union representatives to help deal with an irrational parent who made erroneous racist-related charges against me in front of my administrator based upon his student's opinions. Another time, I was expected by administration to move, on a daily basis, the 14-foot long section of percussion equipment down to the lowest level of the risers, where the conductor is supposed to direct the ensemble. This was to accommodate a wheel-chair-bound student so that the school didn't have to make my room ADA compliant. Without a Union representative there to represent us during the school day, teachers can be asked to do the impossible or be treated unfairly based upon one person's assumptions. The Union representative helped in both cases above, to bring unity between that parent and myself and to get the administration to understand that I shouldn't be admonished for being unable to instruct and direct the ensemble with percussion equipment at the forefront.

SB 280 is an assault on local control. Local school districts, especially larger ones, see the need for release time presidents and association days and bargain that into the collective bargaining agreement with their teachers. With hundreds of staff members, school boards have bargained these provisions because they understand (better than Lansing/state government) how these locally bargained arrangements help their district run more efficiently. For those who support local control, they should oppose legislative mandates that prohibit release time.

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