



Florida AFL-CIO • United Labor Lobby Legislative Alert!

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STOP UNPRECEDENTED ATTACK ON TEACHERS AND STUDENTS!

Florida's parents have long voiced serious concerns over the over-reliance on the FCAT and other standardized tools in our education system because this "one size fits all approach" often leaves many students behind. Over the years, we have forced our children into tighter and tighter boxes ignoring the fact that every student is special and that there are many approaches that can be employed by our teachers to maximize each student's potential. **SB 6 / HB 7189 take this faulty approach even further. This massive legislation, pushed by Jeb Bush as his final attempt to crush public education, will fundamentally alter our state's education system and cause irrevocable damage to Florida's ability to recruit and retain the best and brightest teachers for our kids.**

- Local school boards and parents will lose any control over education policies regarding teacher evaluations and their ability to shape curriculum will be greatly reduced as Tallahassee takes over.
- Florida will be the only state in the nation to base 50% of teacher evaluations on standardized tests. These tests have not even been developed (The remaining 50% is still largely unknown). Enhanced educational activities will be eliminated as teachers are forced to only "teach to the test."
- All incentives for teachers to receive advanced degrees are eliminated.
- The incredibly successful National Board Certification program is all but eliminated.
- Programs that address regions with critical teacher shortages and that provide loan forgiveness for teachers willing to serve in low-performing schools are eliminated.
- Private schools getting vouchers (set to increase dramatically this year) are not required to conform to these provisions.

SB 6 sponsored by Sen. John Thrasher (Republican Party Chair) has passed the Senate.

HB 7189 passed its first committee yesterday after teachers and parents were cut off during comments. Leadership prohibited debate and refused to even consider any amendments.

SB 6/HB 7189 will profoundly impact our entire educational system, ignoring volumes of research about how students learn and the best ways to recruit and retain the cream of the crop of the teaching profession. **Florida is home to some of the best teachers in the world, but these measures will transform them into nothing more than bean counters tabulating test scores and we will lose them.**

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, EVERYONE MUST ACT NOW TO STOP THIS DISASTER OF EPIC PROPORTIONS. WE NEED MASSIVE NUMBERS OF PHONE CALLS!

Call Your Representative in the Florida House: find your representative here - <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/default.aspx>

Call House Speaker Larry Cretul at 850-488-1450 / District office 352 873 6564

Call Senate President Jeff Atwater – 850-487-5229

Sign the online petition a http://www.civicconcern.org/action/stop_sb_6t

TELL THEM TO PROTECT FLORIDA'S SCHOOLS AND STOP SB 6/ HB 7189