



FOR RELEASE

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AFT-WV OUTRAGED AT TOMBLIN'S VETO OF PLANNING PERIOD BILL

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Christine Campbell, president of the West Virginia American Federation of Teachers, expressed the union's frustration after Governor Earl Ray Tomblin unexpectedly vetoed SB477. With overwhelming majorities, the bill passed the House and Senate during the 2014 Legislative Session. It empowered teachers to use their preparation time to ensure effective outcomes and best meet the needs of all students.

Campbell stated, "With the adoption of Common Core and increased standardized testing, our teachers require adequate time to plan and prepare quality instruction. If the state board of education and superintendent truly wanted to improve student learning, they should have encouraged the governor to sign this bill, instead of publicly speaking against it. This is a clear example of the state's education leaders working against what actually improves teaching and learning, while demonstrating the disconnect between those who set education policy and the teachers who are forced to implement it without the necessary time and resources."

"Teachers deserve to be valued as professionals. The Governor received hundreds of letters, emails and calls, in addition to thousands of petition signatures from educators across the state urging his support. The loss of this important piece of legislation has silenced the voice of our teachers by disregarding their input in the process. This veto not only demeans our profession, it compounds our state's difficulties in attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers for our classrooms," continued Campbell.

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The AFT in West Virginia represents over 16,500 education employees in West Virginia and is the largest union in the state. AFT-WV is a proud member of the AFL-CIO. Nationally, the AFT represents 1.5 million pre-K through 12th-grade teachers, paraprofessionals and other school support employees, higher education faculty, nurses and other healthcare workers, and state and local government employees.