

Forty hours - that is how many hours a week I am contracted to work during a regular week. That is how many hours I am paid to work during a regular week. Fifty three hours and roughly twenty five minutes - that is how many hours I spent working last week alone. I wish I could say this was a rare occasion or that I am a rare teacher, but I am far from rare when it comes to a public school teacher. Between interventions, staff meetings, grading, lesson planning, and let's not forget actually teaching my students, there is simply not enough time in the day. But teachers are resilient. Teachers are professionals and they have a job to do. So they stay an extra hour (or two) after school, they pack up their papers and work from their couch after hours, and they come in an hour early the next morning to finish the job.

I believe in the power of education, and I believe that every child deserves a quality education no matter where they came from or where they are going. That is why I wanted to become a teacher. That is why I spent years learning how to research and incorporate best practices into my classroom. That is why I continue to develop my craft as the needs of children change. However, bills like SB 2260 are ruining this process. Demanding that teachers spend additional time preparing their lesson plans for parental approval and adjustments is radical. Not only are teachers continuously being overworked and underpaid, they are professionals. These teachers have been trained to find and create engaging curriculum to teach their students skills that educators have been analyzing for the most impactful education. Then they have been trained to create and administer assessments that will provide reliable data to help make decisions about how to best adjust their methods and lessons to be even more effective. These are skilled professionals and they have a job to do. Standing in their way with the potential of unnecessary obstacles from people who are not trained in best educational practices puts every child's quality education in danger. And continuing to create hoops for educators to jump through like the ones that exist in SB 2260 is beyond harmful to the profession. We are in the thick of a national teacher shortage, with educators leaving the profession at a rapid pace. It may just be due to giving them more expectations while simultaneously creating legislation that says we don't trust them to do their jobs. Please vote no on SB2260.

Haley Ulland
7-9 English Teacher
8 years
Walsh County