

SBUT ANNOUNCER

South Bay United

Teachers

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WELCOME TO NEW SBUT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - SANDRA GOINS!

Things were hopping over the summer as Sandra Goins joined the SBUT team to assume Executive Director responsibilities. She is no stranger to us as she comes from the Centinela Valley Union High School District where she most recently served as the president of CVSTA, was chairperson of the SBUT Board of Directors, and was a CTA State Council rep.

Sandra has been involved at all levels of union work and brings a great many strengths and ex-

perience to the position, including vigorous representation of members in grievances and complaints, effective communication at the bargaining table, representing chapter positions on educational issues, training programs for members, and successful coordinating of school board campaigns. We are pleased to welcome Sandra to the SBUT team in this new role!



Welcome Members!

And an especially warm welcome to all of our new members. I hope that you all had an enjoyable summer. By now you are settling in for what promises to be an interesting year. We have already had to hit the ground running with the reauthorization of ESEA and I want to strongly encourage you to read the next few pages very carefully and find a way to make your voice heard. You have an opportunity now to make a real difference in your profession and in the lives and education of your students. Don't let this chance pass you by.

Your chapter leadership has been busy this summer making preparations to better serve you. They've attended conferences and meetings and frankly, given up a great deal of their own time in order to become better advocates for you. Support

them this year by coming to your site meetings. I urge you to seek out your reps at each site and if one is needed consider serving yourself. Make sure your leadership has a current non-district email address for you and be sure to get theirs.

We are entering school board election season in Centinela Valley, Manhattan Beach and in Palos Verdes. Your officers and reps will be contacting you with information about positions your chapter may take on the candidates. Redondo Beach has no election this November, but will have a bond issue on the ballot in February. Expect more information from your leadership on this as well.

Centinela Valley Secondary Teachers Association, Manhattan Beach Unified Teachers Association and Palos Verdes Faculty Association all have new presidents this year.

Jack Foreman (CV), Jesse White (MB), and Pat Smith (PV) have all taken on the enormous job of president this year and each of them has gotten off to a fantastic start. Along with the always fabulous Amy Santa Cruz from Redondo Beach, the presidents also serve as SBUT Board Directors. Leading the board is new chair, Renae Roberts. Renae, a Palos Verdes kindergarten teacher, is an experienced board member who is active throughout the region and the state.

I wish you nothing but the best as you begin this new school year. Have a great time teaching and coaching and counseling your students and realize that yours is one of the hardest jobs. Thank you for taking it on...

*-Sandra Goins
SBUT Executive Director*

Making Change-It's Time to Say NO!

-To this version of ESEA

California educators have supported the Elementary and Secondary Education Act since its inception in 1965 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it as part of the War on Poverty. CTA supports improving student achievement, closing achievement gaps and accountability, but when the law was reauthorized in 2002 and was named the No Child Left Behind Act by President Bush, it became a system of sanctions rather than assistance to public schools, students and teachers.

NCLB is again now up for reauthorization. And the proposal by California Congressman George Miller and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi does nothing to improve the law. California teachers are calling on Congress to vote NO on the Miller/Pelosi NCLB reauthorization plan.

The No Child Left Behind Act is hurting our students, teachers and schools. Its failed one-size-fits-all approach to education ignores the individual needs of our students. Parents and teachers know all children do not learn in the same way or at the same pace.

NCLB grades student and school success based on a snapshot of mandated, standardized tests given on a single day. The focus on testing forces teachers to teach to the test and has decimated programs like art, music, social studies and physical education.

NCLB sets up schools to fail. This year NCLB labeled one out of every four California public schools as failing. Instead of punishing schools, we need a system that provides assistance and resources to help all students and schools succeed.

NCLB has not improved student learning. According to the Harvard Civil Rights Project, NCLB did not have a significant impact on improving reading and math achievement scores and it has not helped narrow achievement gaps. The research shows the law has actually shortchanged schools that serve predominantly disadvantaged, minority students with an over reliance on sanctions rather than assistance.

The President and Congress have broken their promise to fully fund the law, making NCLB a federally mandated burden on local school districts. The shortfall in promised federal funding now exceeds \$56 billion.

California teachers are calling on Congress to vote NO on the NCLB reauthorization proposal by Representative George Miller and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. It does nothing to improve the law or student learning

and will actually make it harder for students, teachers and public schools.

The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization bill continues to measure student and school success based on standardized test scores and fails to include multiple measures like attendance rates, graduation rates, a rigorous curriculum, and the number of students participating in honors or advanced placement courses.

The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization bill creates four new levels of sanctions for schools that are struggling. It punishes lower-performing schools rather than giving students and teachers the assistance and proven tools they need to improve student learning.

It creates a new federal mandate to pay and evaluate teachers based on student test scores. Test scores don't fairly measure student achievement and cannot accurately evaluate and pay teachers.

California needs 100,000 new teachers in the next 10 years. This proposal will make it harder to get the quality teachers we so desperately need in our classrooms.

Paying teachers based on student test scores will result in more teaching to the test and will end up driving teachers away from lower-performing schools – the very schools that need help the most.

Research shows that merit pay schemes tied to student test scores have not improved student achievement and have been abandoned in many states where they were tried, because they were not working.

The Miller/Pelosi reauthorization plan undermines local control and erodes employee rights. It imposes hundreds of federal government mandates on California schools rather than letting local teachers, parents and school districts decide what's best for their students.

The reauthorization proposal undermines teachers' rights to bargain issues such as pay, working conditions and other programs that directly impact local students and schools.

California teachers work for local school districts not the federal government. This proposal's attempt to mandate a particular evaluation or compensation process is an unprecedented federal infringement on teacher rights. It's offensive and disrespectful to educators.

Rather than wasting billions of dollars on more bureaucracy, paperwork and testing, NCLB should focus on reforms that work. Congress should restore and enhance the federal class size reduction program, with priority given to our schools of greatest need.

California has some of the largest class sizes in the country and ranks 49th in the number of teachers per student. Research shows that smaller class sizes improve student learning and significantly close the achievement gap.

NCLB should provide resources for quality teacher training, mentors for new teachers and programs that enhance parental and family involvement in our schools.

Call your Member of Congress NOW
on the CTA Take-Action Hotline:
1-888-268-4334.

When you call from your home phone, you will automatically be connected with your representative's office. If away from home, or on a cell, you will be connected after entering your home phone number.

Also, call the [San Francisco Chronicle](http://www.sanfranciscochronicle.com) at 415-777-6268 -- the paper is asking us to grade NCLB and whether we think it should be reauthorized as is, rewritten or thrown out.

What else can you do? Visit www.sbut.org and/or www.cta.org and send you lawmakers email messages about saying "NO" to the Miller/Pelosi ESEA Authorization Proposal.

Coming to the SBUT office? Make your contacts there. They'll have all of the information and phones for your use.

Feel like writing an old-fashioned letter? Write Miller and Pelosi at:

George Miller (D)
1333 Willow Pass Rd, Ste 203
Concord, CA 94520

Nancy Pelosi (D) - Speaker
450 Golden Gate Ave. 14th Fl
San Francisco, CA 94102

TELL CONGRESS TO VOTE "NO" on Miller/Pelosi ESEA/NCLB Reauthorization Proposal

- 1. Call your member of Congress from the CTA Hotline: 1-800 268-4334**
If you are calling from a cell phone, enter your home phone number at the prompt and you will be connected to your congressional office.
- 2. Call House Speaker Nancy Pelosi**
Speaker Nancy Pelosi
San Francisco Office Phone (415) 556-4862
Washington DC Phone (202) 225-2095
- 3. Call House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller**
Concord Office Phone (925) 602-1880
Washington DC Phone (202) 225-2095

Sample Phone Script:

Hi, I'm _____, a teacher at _____ school in the _____ School District. I'm calling to ask you to vote NO on the current proposal by Representative George Miller and Speaker Nancy Pelosi to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act. Teachers support accountability, but this reauthorization proposal makes a bad law worse. Its one-size-fits-all approach is hurting students, and it will make it harder to attract quality teachers into our public schools. Support classroom teachers and vote NO on the Miller-Pelosi NCLB Reauthorization proposal.

Instructions:

- ◆ Ask to speak to the Congressperson. If not available leave a message with staff or record a message on the answering machine.
- ◆ Be sure to identify yourself as a constituent living in the district as well as a classroom teacher.
- ◆ Be sure to give contact information so they can get back to you.

ATTENTION NEW EDUCATORS

If you're a CTA member or a member transferring to a new district, you can enroll in CTA's Voluntary Disability and/or Life plans for up to \$200,000 from The Standard without proof of good health during your first 120 days of employment. Check out the programs available at www.standard.com/cta_member_services/

ALL MEMBERS

Any member may apply for coverage at any time, but applications will be subject to health evidence underwriting and insurance company approval.

Call or e-mail the SBUT office for an enrollment brochure or visit The Standard website
www.standard.com/cta_member_services/

SBUT TUTORING PROGRAM

Don't forget the tutoring program available to members who wish to provide private tutoring. Check out the website (www.sbut.org) and click on the tutoring icon in the lower left corner. If you are not currently listed and would like to be, print out a form, complete and return it to the SBUT office.

Check out the NEA member benefits website each month to register for Free Giveaways!

Click on the



icon, for the current promotion.

This month:



www.neamb.com

You can also access the site through the SBUT website by clicking the "resources" button, then the "NEA Member Benefits" button.



VOTE-BY-MAIL THIS NOVEMBER

It's a fact. Teachers vote more often and more regularly than the rest of the general public. The appearance of teachers at the polling booth is a public affirmation of a belief in the democratic process— and a great lesson to students. It has been estimated that approximately 80 percent of all teachers vote in every election.

So, why does CTA encourage you to VOTE-BY-MAIL? There are several reasons:

- (1) It's easy to forget to go to the polls
- (2) For members who are active volunteers and who will be working on behalf of the Association's recommendations on election day, early voting will give you a chance to ensure that you cast your ballot without taking away from the important election day activities AND
- (3) Members with extraordinarily long commutes, travel plans, or family obligations can avoid the hassle and vote-by-mail.
- (4) VBM ballots are on paper and can be recounted if needed.

When you receive your sample ballot, fill out the Vote-by-mail form, sign it, stamp it, and drop it in the mail. Of course, if you'd prefer to vote at the polls, please do! JUST REMEMBER TO VOTE!

TEACHERS ARE THE BEST VOICE FOR CHILDREN AND PUBLIC EDUCATION.