



PRESS RELEASE

Arizona State Senate

1700 W Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Senator Leah Landrum Taylor, LD27

Senator David Bradley, LD10

Senator Carlyle Begay, LD7

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March 4, 2014

Republican measures to halt new school standards hurt AZ kids, economy

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Democratic members of the Senate Education Committee released the following statements on Republican measures, including [SB1301](#) on today’s Committee of the Whole, that are on the move and are designed to bar the state from implementing the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards:

Sen. David Bradley, LD10:

“It is unfortunate to see a series of bills moving forward that reverse efforts to set the bar higher for students in our K-12 schools,” said Sen. Bradley. “Reacting to misinformation spread by extremists, Republicans are voting to dismantle the Arizona College and Career Ready Standards and remove the State Board of Education’s authority to adopt standards and assessments for our schools. Some members who are vigorously working to eliminate these standards appear to have not even taken the time to thoroughly read them. If even one of these bills is enacted it would risk over \$1 billion in federal education funding; a cost that would devastate our already underfunded school system.”

Sen. Carlyle Begay, LD7:

“Practically the entire Arizona business community stood alongside the education community in opposition to these bills because, as job creators, they know that they can't succeed, and Arizona can't succeed, unless we are producing the very best workforce possible,” said Sen. Begay. “If we want Arizona businesses to grow and new businesses to relocate here, we must ensure our kids are leaving school prepared for success.”

Education Committee Ranking Member Sen. Leah Landrum Taylor, LD27:

“Arizonans want higher standards because they want their children, and the state to succeed. It is important that as we stand firm in support of the new standards we also provide the resources necessary to effectively implement them in our schools. The Arizona College and Career Ready Standards represent a paradigm shift in instructional delivery, with teachers being asked to embed critical thinking and writing skills across subject areas,” said Sen. Landrum Taylor. “If we want to see the implementation succeed we must commit to providing our teachers with professional development so that they are prepared. We know that if we set the bar high, our students will meet our expectations and rise to the challenge.”

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Media Contact:

Aaron Latham, Director of Communication | Arizona State Senate Democratic Caucus | 602-926-4477 | alatham@azleg.gov
www.azsenatedems.blogspot.com | Twitter: [AZSenateDems](#) | Facebook: [AZSenateDems](#)