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March 31, 2011

TO: All Members of the Senate Education Committee

FROM: Ted Kirsch, President, AFT PA

RE: Mandate Elimination Package

Position: Please Oppose All 18 Bills in the Mandate Elimination Package.
Senate Bills: 202, 293, 296, 329, 537, 612, 801, 802, 803, 814,
844, 857, 858, 869, 870, 871, 872 and 873

This massive package of bills would strip the School Code of many protections for students and school employees. Such a large scale overhaul of education policy should be voted on only after extensive hearings are conducted.

Serious changes ranging from depriving children of certified school nurses to laying off teachers for economic reasons without any objective criteria, to dropping requirements that school districts provide professional development for teachers, are included in this series of destructive proposals.

Other provisions of the bills would weaken teacher certification, require a 2/3 vote by school districts to raise property taxes, eliminate requirements on funding kindergarten and small-class size, allow non-certificated individuals to become superintendents, delete provisions for sabbatical leave and sick days.

Please vote no on all 18 mandate elimination bills.

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