



April 15, 2009

## SB 834 Passes House *What's Next?*

**Senate Bill 834 passed the House with a vote of 60-39.** The bill is now headed back to the Senate. Senators have the option of accepting the amendments made in the house or rejecting the changes and sending the bill to conference. If the changes are accepted, the bill will head to the Governor's desk. We believe the Senators will accept the changes and the bill could be on the Governor's desk as early as next week. We need you to [click here](#) and tell the Governor to veto SB 834.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

- To override a veto, a two-thirds majority of both houses has to oppose the governor's decision. That is 67 members in the 101-member House of Representatives and 34 members in the 50-member Senate.
- The governor has five days (excluding Sundays) to sign or veto a bill after he receives it.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW**

- [Click here](#) to ask the Governor to veto SB 834.
- Find out how your house member voted and either thank them for opposing the bill or express your disappointment for their approval of the bill. [Click here](#) to see how your legislator voted.
- Attend your May school board meeting and ask board members to oppose SB 834.
- Organize a meeting or rally and invite your legislators to speak about their position on SB 834.
- Ask your legislator to encourage the governor to veto SB 834.
- Place anti-SB 834 signs in your cars. [Click here](#) to print the sign.
- Place anti-SB 834 signs in local businesses (with their permission, obviously).
- Ask members of civic or religious organizations that you are involved in to encourage the governor to veto SB 834.

### **Is the process of this bill clear as mud? Here's the simple flow chart**

SB 834 introduced in the Senate => passed Senate Education Committee => passed Senate floor => passed House Education Committee => passed House floor with some amendments => headed back to Senate floor to accept or reject changes made to the bill => headed to governor (if changes are accepted by senators).

### **Thank You**

Your actions remind Oklahomans of the power of collective action. Together we are better! Here's a quote to think about: "Unlike any other nation, we are not defined by geography, arts, cuisine or sensibilities, religion or ethnic background or war: we are defined instead and quite simply by the rights we have. Our rights are our history," from the book *The Way We Will Be*. Our rights are our history. If we lose our rights as teachers, we lose a piece of our history. The fight is not over. We need fervent, organized and dedicated action. OEA past victories tell us We Can Do It!

## **School Employee Protection Act Passes**

In a bit of good news out of the legislature, **HB 1598, the School Employee Protection Act**, has passed both houses and is headed to the governor's desk. The bill, which requires protection of school employees, will provide:

- Protection from false allegations by students or parents, making it unlawful to file a false criminal report against an education employee.
- School suspension of the student if the student is found guilty of assaulting a school employee.
- Accumulated leave will not have to be used while a school employee is recovering from an assault by a student.

A big thank you to Rep. Dan Sullivan and Sen. Anthony Sykes for authoring this bill.