

June 7, 2017

My name is Veronica Fairchild and I teach at Mount Rainier High School, am an HEA building representative and serve on our local HEA bargaining team.

I am speaking tonight to let you know how betrayed I feel by the fact that Superintendent Enfield signed a letter sent to our state legislators that supports the restriction of teacher collective bargaining rights around TRI pay. By signing this letter, Superintendent Enfield is telling me that she does not recognize, nor respect, the countless extra hours teachers spend of their own time to do their jobs.

She is telling me that teachers don't actually earn the income they now get, and should be paid less to better match the amount of work they do. If teachers just worked to contract, lessons would not be written, assessment would not be graded, and students would not be tutored. Achieving a 95% graduation rate doesn't happen just between 7:00am and 2:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Encouraging the legislature to take away our collective bargaining rights is disrespectful and destroys our ability to trust that the district makes our professional, and in turn, our personal wellbeing a priority. Feeling disrespected and a lack of trust is why people leave the Highline district. In order to recruit and retain qualified teachers who will know students by name, strength and need the district needs to approach teachers with respect, honesty, and humanity.

Please rescind your support of this damaging position on teacher value.

Thank you