



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
ADELAIDE, S.A. 5000

Ref: 01072020EM

Mr Glen Seidel  
Secretary  
Independent Education Union  
213-215 Currie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000

via email: [enquiries@ieusa.org.au](mailto:enquiries@ieusa.org.au)

Dear Glen,

**Re: Teachers Registration and Standards (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill**

Thank you for meeting with me on 15 June 2020 to outline your concerns in relation to the Bill currently before the Legislative Council. Your advocacy is most appreciated.

We have met with other stakeholders who have expressed similar concerns to you.

I spoke on behalf of SA-Best in the Legislative Council last sitting week and indicated our support for the Labor amendments which relate to the contentious aspects of the Bill you have raised.

We also filed our own amendments which provide for two Independent Education Union nominated Members on the Board. We consider this to be a more accurate reflection of non-government teacher representation and one which the Australian Education Union also indicated their support for.

In my Second Reading speech, which I have attached for your information, I spoke of the importance of the fair representation of teachers:

“Teachers need to have faith that the board, their board, will set appropriate professional standards and make proper decisions based on their real-life, day-to-day experiences. These experiences should then be complemented by other skill sets, but teachers need to maintain significant input.”

“Diluting the board to reduce the voice of teachers, who fund the board and whose profession is governed by the board, is far less than ideal. We do not accept this is in the best interests of children, or, indeed, the profession. We have faith in the experience of teachers, from the ground up. Teachers need to have at least an equal voice in decision-making as it relates to them. It is one thing to have knowledge gained from textbooks, but it is another thing to be able to join the dots of that knowledge through experience.”

Thank you again for contacting me. If you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Connie Bonaros MLC

1 July 2020