

**SCPTSA 2015 Legislative Endorsement/Opposition**  
**Adopted at Feb. 9, 2015 board meeting**  
**Contact—[Eden Mack](#), Legislative Chair**

**Education**

SUPPORTED: [HB 1899/ SB 5718](#): Concerning consideration of equity and social justice impacts from public education system decision making.

SUPPORTED: [SB 5433/HB 1511](#): Requiring Washington's tribal history, culture, and government to be taught in the common schools. (Time immemorial curriculum)

SUPPORTED: [SB 5312/ HB 1570](#): Creating flexibility for the educator retooling conditional scholarship program.

**Funding McCleary**

SUPPORTED: *Washington United for Fair Revenue* [Principles](#).

“Washington United for Fair Revenue is a statewide, grassroots campaign fighting for a future that works for all of us. We are united in the fight for new revenues that will cover our growing needs, such as K-12 public education and long-term care for seniors. It’s time for Washington to replace its archaic revenue system, the least fair in the nation, with a fair, accountable and shared tax system producing stable and sufficient revenues. We want every Washingtonian to have a safe and prosperous future, with our basic needs addressed — beginning with the most vulnerable among us.”

OPPOSED: [HB 1001](#): Fund education first

SUPPORTED: [HB 1239/SB 5492](#): Increasing tax exemption transparency and accountability.

SUPPORTED: [HB 1484/ SB 5699](#): Enacting an excise tax on capital gains to improve the fairness of Washington's tax system and provide funding for the education legacy trust account.

SUPPORTED: [HB 1314/ SB 5283](#): Carbon Pollution Accountability Act.

**Capital Funding for School Buildings**

SUPPORTED: [SB 5859](#): Concerning the school construction assistance program.

SUPPORTED with concerns (expand to include K-3 class size reduction building needs): [SB 5478](#): Financing facilities to support education reform.

**Seattle School District Governance**

SUPPORTED: [HB 1665](#): Increasing compensation for school directors in districts enrolling twenty thousand or more students.

OPPOSED: [HB 1860/ HB 2048](#): Concerning the division of large first-class school districts--Provided [testimony on 2/10/2015](#) at House Education committee hearing.

OPPOSED via Resolution: [HB 1497](#): Concerning appointments of the board of directors of a school district of the first class having within its boundaries a city with a population of four hundred thousand people or more.

“Whereas; Washington State Representative Eric Pettigrew (D) proposed House Bill 1497 . HB1497 would allow for two out of seven school board directors- or approximately 30%- of Seattle's Public School board to be appointed by the mayor.

Whereas; A citizen’s right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and should not be dismantled at federal, state or local levels. The right to vote should never be diminished. Citizens have a right to elect their representatives; and

"Most researchers agree on one negative consequence — when mayors take charge of public schools, the role of parents and the community, especially among minority groups, can be marginalized and can further compromise democratic control of schools" (Harvard, 2006; Moscovitch et al., 2010; Hess, 2003, 2011). - See more at: <http://www.centerforpubliceducation.org/Main-Menu/Policies/Mayoral-involvement-in-urban-schools-At-a-glance#sthash.IYVRTOX3.ATrXAlvd.dpuf>

Whereas; There is no guarantee a political appointment will be based on an expertise in education or commitment to public education. Appointees may support a political agenda and there is no guarantee an appointee has a commitment to public schools. Appointed boards are not accountable to the voting public and they are under no obligation to respond to parent concerns, policies and practices.

Whereas; The City of Seattle does not have the capacity, jurisdiction or expertise to manage public education. The city is grappling with unresolved challenges of police reform, recrudescence of crime and gun violence, transportation - including the escalating costs and uncertain future of the Deep Bore Tunnel (BERTHA), homelessness, unaffordable housing and infrastructure to meet the needs of a rapidly growing city. The city has unresolved issues and should not take on education.

Whereas; The research indicates that partnerships between cities and school districts work better than mayoral appointments to the board (Research from Professor Tom Alsbury, Seattle Pacific University)

Whereas; Mayoral control in other cities in the nation have resulted in proliferation of charter schools and other highly controversial initiatives. Seattle voters did not approve charter schools.

Whereas, Mayoral control of education in other cities has become highly controversial. In Chicago, hundreds of citizens have rallied to demand restoration of elected school boards. In Chicago, the opportunity gap has expanded since the school board was appointed. The number of appointed and mayoral controlled boards in urban cities have been in decline because they have not served citizens.

Whereas, House Bill 1497 does not provide a mechanism to recall appointed school board directors or provide any other measure of accountability to the public.

Whereas; Mayoral control of education is a distraction from fully funding education via McCleary.

Whereas, Former US Assistant Secretary of Education, Diane Ravitch: "Anyone who looks to mayoral control of urban schools as a panacea will be disappointed.

Let it therefore be resolved that the Seattle Council PTSA hereby opposes and rejects HB1497 and any other proposals to appoint school board members.”