



STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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STATE SUPERINTENDENT

**State Board of Education
Statement on Senate Bills 713-15**

The State Board of Education agrees with the Legislature's concern that Michigan classrooms must be staffed so children can attend school as scheduled. Teachers and families alike should be able to expect that our schools are safe, with conditions that allow children to learn in a healthy environment.

Recent staff sickouts have led to school closures, highlighting issues related to school safety and environmental hazards, and have prompted the Legislature to debate bills aimed at these actions. The State Board of Education requests that the Legislature consider tabling these bills in consideration for an important stated reason behind the teacher actions: school safety.

It is vitally important that the Legislature create a mechanism for teachers and staff across the state to report safety and health concerns to a neutral third party when educators feel that their local district is not able or willing to address their concerns. The Legislature has a duty to ensure that public money is being spent wisely and that our students, staff and teachers can work and learn in a safe and appropriate environment.

Adopted February 9, 2016

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