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ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONAL
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A+PEL Executive Director to Testify in Support of Value-Added Legislation Before Louisiana Senate Education Committee

(Baton Rouge) – Today the executive director of the 7,000 member Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL) is scheduled to testify before the Louisiana Senate Education Committee in support of H.B. 1033, value-added legislation which will spur efforts to have an effective teacher in every classroom. A+PEL has joined a coalition of education and business entities in support of the bill, including the Louisiana Association of Principals, Louisiana Association of Superintendents, and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce.

“H.B. 1033 provides the opportunity for administrators and teachers alike to evaluate not only student progress, but also teacher effectiveness -- improve on that which works, and change what does not work,” said Kathy Campbell, A+PEL Executive Director.

For more than 30 years, 98% of all Louisiana teachers receive “satisfactory” ratings under the current teacher evaluation system, even in schools where students consistently fail to meet basic academic standards. According to the Louisiana Department of Education, one-third of all Louisiana school children are performing below grade level. H.B. 1033 addresses this disconnect and establishes a more quantitative and less subjective evaluation system for all educators.

“The data clearly shows that we need to improve how we are educating children,” said Campbell. “A+PEL is choosing not to sit idly by while tens of thousands of Louisiana’s students fall further behind.”

Using a complex statistical analysis of test scores, a value-added evaluation model tracks individual student improvement year to year and uses that progress to estimate the effectiveness of individual teachers, principals, and schools. The assessment data will be used as a tool, helping to identify and focus on specific professional development activities that will give educators meaningful opportunities to improve instruction and positively impact student learning.

“Louisiana is full of great teachers who want to be effective in their classrooms,” added Campbell. “As educators, we firmly believe that we must be part of the solution.”

A+PEL is a member-driven, statewide, non-union organization of more than 7,000 educators. A+PEL provides support, resources and advocacy for Louisiana’s professional educators. www.apeleducators.org

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