



May 20, 2010

ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONAL  
EDUCATORS of LOUISIANA

## **Senate Education Committee**

### **Testimony of**

### **Kathy Campbell, Executive Director Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana (A+PEL)**

Senator Nevers and Committee Members: I am Kathy Campbell, executive director of A+PEL – the Associated Professional Educators of Louisiana. We are a non-union, statewide professional teachers organization with over 7,000 members. For the past 23 years A+PEL has supported educators who are committed to providing students the best possible education, and to that end we support this bill. You have heard testimony today that describes what H.B. 1033 can do to ultimately make a positive impact on student learning and the effectiveness of teachers, but I want to offer a teacher’s perspective – one that represents those teachers who want to teach and who want what’s best for their students.

For more than 30 years, nearly of all Louisiana teachers have received “satisfactory” ratings under the current teacher evaluation system, even in schools where students consistently fail to meet basic academic standards. As educators, we cannot sit idly by while over 200,000 school children – one-third of all Louisiana students – are performing below grade-level. H.B. 1033 addresses this disconnect and establishes a more quantitative and less subjective evaluation system for all educators.

There are great teachers all across Louisiana but they may not have the tools to improve their instruction. That is because the current evaluation system does not provide teachers with measures of their strengths or specific areas where they are underperforming. The value-added model of assessment provides the opportunity for administrators and teachers alike to evaluate not only student progress, but also teacher effectiveness, and this means that the teachers themselves can see how they can improve on that which works, and change what does not work.

One of the strengths of this bill is that classroom teachers will have the ability to provide input as this assessment method is implemented. We firmly believe that teachers must be part of the solution, and H.B. 1033 affords that opportunity.

We are indeed at a tipping point in education. Therefore, I urge you to join A+PEL and support H.B. 1033 so that we can help make Louisiana a better place for teachers to teach and students to learn.