

September 23, 2011

*SEA proudly shares this e-communication from AEA President Andrew F. Morrill*

### **AEA Wins Injunction Against Educator Gag Bill**

AEA celebrated a victory in the courts today; U.S. District Court Judge G. Murray Snow granted AEA's request for a preliminary injunction of Senate Bill (SB) 1365.

Judge Snow found that, based on the evidence, SB 1365 violates the first amendment rights of educators in Arizona. AEA, with other public unions, filed a lawsuit contesting the constitutionality of SB 1365, which places restrictions on payroll deductions for labor unions, excluding public safety unions.

Today's ruling is a victory for AEA and for free speech for Arizona's teachers and education support professionals, and it sends a message that when the government tries to muzzle the voice of public school employees and violate their constitutional rights, the AEA will respond to protect and defend educators' rights.

Though AEA has been confident in our success in this legal battle it does not change our current course of action. Our Association must remain free from legislative control by using an alternative method of dues collection for the current payroll deduction, such as Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT).

Legislators can very easily pass another version of SB 1365 that includes all unions in the next legislative session. AEA is determined to stand up for educators' voices and not allow legislators to hold this threat over our organization. If you have not done so, I encourage you to contact AEA Membership Organizational Consultant Nell Pederson at [nell.pederson@arizonaaea.org](mailto:nell.pederson@arizonaaea.org) or 602-264-1774 or 800-352-5411 x113 today to sign up for an alternative method of dues collection. If you have already flipped, thank you and please encourage your colleagues to follow your example.

Our campaign to flip all members will continue, but it is important to celebrate today's victory. This win is another example of AEA working on behalf of teachers and education support professionals in Arizona and keeping the promise of quality public education.

Sincerely,

Andrew F. Morrill, President

Arizona Education Association

