

TAHPERD Members:

We have an urgent request for your help. Immediate phone calls and personal emails are crucial to protect elementary physical education in Tennessee. **We urge you to contact House Education Subcommittee (for Curriculum, Testing and Innovation) Members, and your Representative and Senator, asking them to vote against any legislation that would alter/delete the 2 days of Elementary Physical Education per week (The Cronan Act).**

On Tuesday, Feb. 25th at noon, HB 1688 (sponsor- Rep. Cepicky) will be discussed again, and probably voted upon in the House Education Subcommittee for Curriculum, Testing and Innovation.

Here is what the bill is intended to do:

- 1) For K-3, there would be 2 physical activity/recess breaks per school day (a minimum of 15-and a maximum of 30 minutes) for children across Tennessee. (4-12 will remain as is).
- 2) **We proposed an amendment to the sponsor which would require that 2 of the physical activity breaks per week would be instructional physical education classes taught by a licensed, endorsed physical education teacher.**

We are asking all TAHPERD members, all physical education teachers, all university colleagues, and all parents of elementary children to contact:

1) Members of the Subcommittee about the importance of 2 days of elementary physical education per week (as listed above) for inclusion into HB 1688; **Members are: Debra Moody, David Byrd, Mark Cochran, John DeBerry, Jr., Bill Dunn, Harold Love, Jr., and Mark White.**

2) Your local Representatives and Senators to express concern for any legislation that would **alter/delete** the Cronan Bill for Elementary Physical Education. (go to www.capitol.tn.gov to find the contact information. See the 'find my legislator' part for more help).

The Cronan Bill became the Cronan Act, passed into law in spring 2018, We expected implementation beginning in the 2019-20 school year, but an amendment was introduced 2 days before the 2019 Legislative Session ended, delaying implementation.

Since 2015, TOSS (the Tennessee Organization for School Superintendents) remains THE main opposition to the Cronan Bill. Superintendents are telling the ED of TOSS, Dale Lynch, that **1)** they will have to hire new teachers at a tremendous cost and **2)** there aren't enough hours in the school day for 2 physical education classes per week. Neither of these are true statements! The BEP funding formula provides all monies for the physical education teachers. For scheduling, TAHPERD has assisted for a year in helping schools rework their schedules according to the State Board of Education recommendations, and all related arts and 2 days per week of physical education. Everything fits nicely within the 6 1/2 hour school day, in most cases with time remaining in the day.

We urge you to contact Subcommittee Members, and your Representative and Senator, asking them to vote against any legislation that would alter/delete the 2 days of Elementary Physical Education per week (The Cronan Act). Tennessee simply needs the implementation of The Cronan Act to begin. Tennessee does not need to be known as the #1 state in the nation for childhood obesity!

Grateful for your help for children,

Sincerely,

Fran Hoogestraat
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