Dear Senator Tokuda:

I strongly oppose SB 2535, which requires the Department of

Education to devise four standardized bell schedules.  Every school has different needs and those needs must be addressed before you wipe the slate clean and create bell schedules when you have not even been in MY classroom, and I have taught here for seven years and in New Jersey for twenty-five. Each faculty member needs to have flexibility in planning. We are given the authority to plan for the individual needs of schools and our students through

Act 51. As a teacher I do know what works for my students.  One

schedule per school type or grade level being mandated by the

Department of Education or legislators is ludicrous. Without having the teachers’ input, how could you possibly make a decision like the one you have planned? I invite you to come to my classroom so you can observe my students and how they spend their day.    My workday is negotiated under my contract, and I would like to make sure my rights are protected and HSTA be allowed to bargain as provided in the law.    This bill should not be passed. Let us continue to negotiate our contract.    These bills that you are devising while we have no contract seems to be a slap in the face not only for the HSTA but also for every parent, student and teacher throughout the state. Please think before you act and know that I not only teach, but I vote in this state.

Thank you.

Laurie Kirk Mazzoli