

**From:** Kostelka, Sen. (District Office)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2010 2:13 PM  
**To:** 'Mitzi Rodgers Murray'  
**Subject:** RE: National Board Certification Stipend

Ms Murray:

I received and thank you for the email concerning the supplemental pay of board certified teachers. I have been in constant contact with Ms. Connic Cassels, SSP,NCSP (Northern Regional Representative for the Louisiana School Psychological Association) concerning this issue and have already expressed my objections to cutting this stipend for teachers who go the extra mile to become board certified. Certainly the cost of this program is much more beneficial than expensive and, as you state, certainly sends the wrong message about Education in Louisiana. I have also discussed this with Rep. Jim Fannin, a close friend, who is Chairman of House Appropriations which covers the entire State Budget. As you also may be aware, Rep. Fannin and I have had numerous conflicts with Superintendent Pastorek and this is one of those issues. I would think that the Superintendent should be fighting to keep funding for this program. If there are any cuts in Elementary or Secondary Education it certainly should begin with the Department of Education in Baton Rouge. I assure you of my opposition of this cut and I will vote that way on any opportunity we may have concerning the State Budget.

FYI! I have attached the link of an Advocate Editorial you will want to read.

<http://www.theadvocate.com/opinion/85446907.html>

Robert W. "Bob" Kostelka  
Senate District 35  
318-362-3474