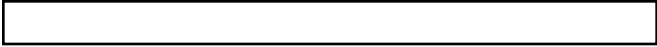


Education and labor to battle 2 measures

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SALEM — A new coalition of labor unions and education groups Thursday announced that it will work to defeat two measures on the November ballot that would affect Oregon classrooms and how teachers are paid.



The Parents and Teachers Know Better Coalition will oppose Measure 58, which would limit separate English immersion classes for foreign-language-speaking students, and Measure 60, which would change teacher salary raises to be merit-based rather than seniority-based.

The kickoff events were staged in Portland and Eugene, where teachers and members of education group Stand for Children criticized both proposals and their combined price tag, which a state committee estimated to be more than \$600 million.

However, the coalition is statewide and will be active in Central Oregon, said campaign spokeswoman Treasure Mackley.

“Both of the measures take away local control of schools and parents to make decisions that are best for their own communities,” she said.

The chief petitioners for the measures are conservative activists Russ Walker, a Republican Party vice chairman and the head of the state chapter of FreedomWorks, and prolific initiative author Bill Sizemore, of Klamath Falls.

No political committees have formed to support either measure.

— James Sinks, The Bulletin

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