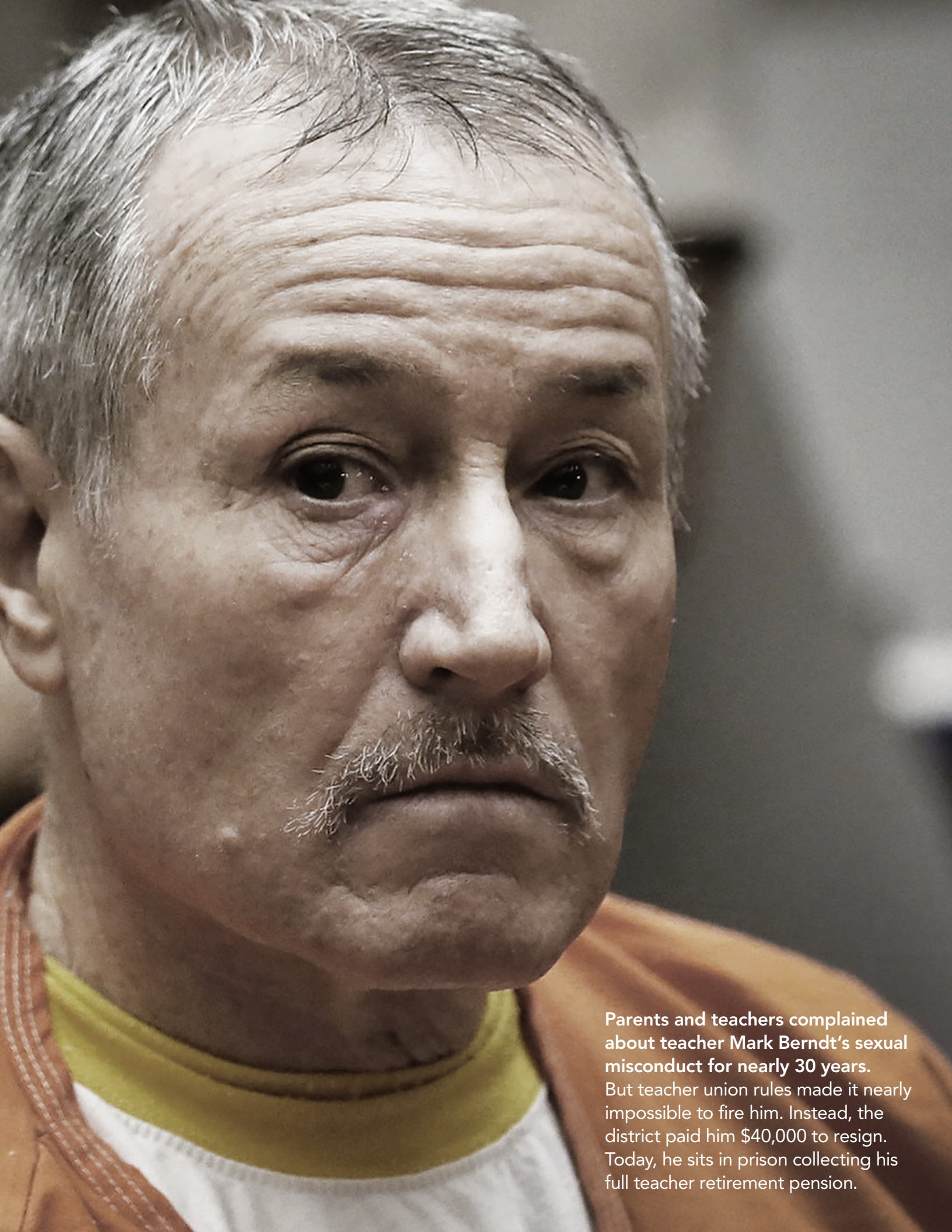




Shocking but true.



Parents and teachers complained about teacher Mark Berndt's sexual misconduct for nearly 30 years. But teacher union rules made it nearly impossible to fire him. Instead, the district paid him \$40,000 to resign. Today, he sits in prison collecting his full teacher retirement pension.

Yes, Al Muratsuchi really did co-author a bill making it “more difficult to fire pervert teachers.”

Source: *San Diego Union-Tribune*, 10-13-2013

AL MURATSUCHI co-authored Assembly Bill 375.



The bill promised to protect children against teachers like Mark Berndt, who is now serving 25 years in prison for feeding his third-grade students cookies laced with semen, masturbating in class and other sex crimes.

At first, AB 375 seemed okay. Even the *Los Angeles Times* endorsed an early version.

But the bill was rewritten for teacher unions, becoming what the California School Boards Association called “a good bill for bad teachers.” The final version limited the number of student victims who could testify against accused teachers, and restricted a district's ability to amend charges — even if more student victims came forward. Source: *Sacramento Bee*, 10-02-2013

“AB 375 got so watered down,” wrote the *Sacramento Bee*, “that it now actually makes it more difficult for school districts to dismiss a teacher accused of unprofessional or immoral conduct — such as sexual harassment, causing bodily injury to students or staff, or financial misconduct.” Source: *Sacramento Bee*, 10-02-2013



Newspapers and student advocates opposed Muratsuchi's bill.



“AB 375 would permit teachers who jeopardize the safety of students to legally return to their classrooms.”

Wes Smith, Executive Director
Association of California School Administrators



“Will make it harder to dismiss individuals who may be a threat to student safety.”

Brian Rivas, Legislative Advocate
California School Boards Association



“Disastrously increases the likelihood that perpetrators will ... inflict child abuse again.”

Bill Lucia, President
EdVoice



“AB 375 is not a sincere effort to reform a broken system that endangers children’s lives, but rather a political ploy ...”

Dave Welch, Founder
Students Matter

“Would have made it even more difficult to fire teachers.”

San Diego Union-Tribune, 10-13-2013

“AB 375 would keep bad apples in place.”

Sacramento Bee, 10-02-2013

Governor Brown vetoed Muratsuchi’s bill.

BILL NUMBER: AB 375
VETOED DATE: 10/10/2013

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 375 without my signature.

The goal of this bill is to simplify the process for hearing and deciding teacher dismissal cases. I have listened at great length to arguments both for and against this measure. While I agree that it makes worthwhile adjustments to the dismissal process, such as lifting the summer moratorium on the filing of charges and eliminating some opportunities for delay, other changes make the process too rigid and could create new problems.

I am particularly concerned that limiting the number of depositions to five per side, regardless of the circumstances, and restricting a district’s ability to amend charges even if new evidence comes to light, may do more harm than good.

I share the authors’ desire to streamline the teacher discipline process, but this bill is an imperfect solution. I encourage the Legislature to continue working with stakeholders to identify changes that are balanced and reduce procedural complexities.

Sincerely,

Edmund G. Brown Jr.



Why would Muratsuchi do it?

Al Muratsuchi doesn't condone sexual predators in the classroom. So why would he co-author a bill protecting bad teachers?

And why would teacher unions push a bill protecting bad teachers? Because they represent teachers, good and bad, not parents and students.

“California has a cumbersome and costly teacher dismissal process,” wrote the *Sacramento Bee*. “But efforts at reform have consistently been beaten back by the powerful California Teachers Association.” Source: *Sacramento Bee*, 10-02-2013

Teacher unions have been among Muratsuchi's biggest campaign donors, spending over \$200,000 electing him in 2012. Source: California Secretary of State Campaign Finance Report 2011-2012, cal-access.sos.ca.gov

So when the teacher unions wanted the “watered down” bill, he agreed.

Muratsuchi sided with his special donors, not the children. In politics, it's how the cookie crumbles.



“Instead of leading to basic reforms, the Berndt fallout gave the California Teachers Association and the California Federation of Teachers another chance to demonstrate they own the Legislature.”

San Diego Union-Tribune, 10-13-2013



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