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Teachers feel the heat

For the past 50 years or so, May has been a month to appreciate teachers. Yet many teachers around the country are becoming frustrated with what they perceive as an attack against their profession. Really, it's just the American people as a whole getting fed up with union strongholds-with teachers unions being some of the worst offenders.

Teaching is one of the most difficult vocations; I know as I have taught for the past six years. Teachers deserve our encouragement and support. But unions are testing the patience of the public, with their demands of outrageous benefits and other measures which clearly place the adults before the children.

And teachers still have the support of most in this country. A February NBC/Wall Street Journal poll showed that 73 percent of Americans have a positive view of teachers. It's the unions they don't like.

Andrew Coulson, the director of the Cato Institute's Center for Educational Freedom (formerly of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy) [recently told NPR the following](#): *Any time that you ask the public questions about teachers as individuals you tend to get fairly favorable responses. The only time that you start to get negative responses are when the public is asked about teachers unions and collective actions by teachers organizations.*