

Chairman Jones, Vice-Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 322.

My name is Jennifer Burggraf, and I am a veteran teacher, with 17 years of experience teaching English language learners at all levels from Kindergarten to 12th grade in Ohio. Currently, I serve as the lead mentor in my department and the district department chair for English learners at Olentangy Local Schools. In my current role, I have constant contact with our novice EL teachers. I know their instructional strengths and weaknesses, and what they must learn in order to effectively meet the needs of our population. In addition to my experiences as a teacher leader in the field of ELL, I have scored RESA for the past three years. Thus, my experiences have given me a vast lens through which to view RESA, and the reason that I feel that the assessment is beneficial for Ohio's children.

Through my experience mentoring new teachers, I have seen first hand that teachers do not enter the profession with the skills that they need to plan, instruct, assess learning, and reflect effectively on their lessons. Clearly, beginning teachers need to develop these skills in order for them to be effective in reaching all students. When I mentor new teachers, I am able to guide them through job-embedded professional development where we can focus on using these skills in the classroom. Then, I am able to follow up and provide feedback and further guidance on how the skills are executed after we have reviewed them. Finally, RESA provides a summative assessment from an outside perspective as to whether or not the new teachers have acquired the necessary skills to reach all of Ohio's students.

RESA elevates teaching to a professional level, as it provides a summative assessment of the knowledge required for one to be successful in the field. In comparison to the medical field, where doctors must pass state certification to demonstrate knowledge that they know what to do in practice, teachers must pass RESA to ensure that our consumers, students and families, are safe and protected. Education is the food for the future of society. Thus, we must ensure that those molding the minds of our most vulnerable population are proficient in their skill set.

RESA has been streamlined over the last few years, which reduces the time commitment on the Resident Educator. Completing RESA is not burdensome on beginning teachers. In fact, it allows teachers to reflect on their practice, which is an essential skill in the profession. Teachers are guided to think about the positive aspects of their lessons and also consider what they would change in future iterations. This skill, when carried into a beginning teacher's career, allows a teacher to become better each time he or she teaches a lesson. Thus, RESA contributes to continued future growth in RESA participants.

In conclusion, teachers in Ohio have a substantial burden placed on their shoulders. They are tasked with developing the future of the state, country, and world by building the brains of the leaders of tomorrow. Thus, the teaching profession needs to be held to high standards, just like those of other influential professions, such as medicine or law. The mentoring portion of RESA provides new teachers with a job-embedded learning platform for new skills, while the RESA serves as a summative assessment to ensure that, after intense mentoring, new teachers are prepared to shape of world by efficiently instructing our children.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Burggraf
Marion, Ohio