

House Education Primary and Secondary Education Committee

HB 322 – Proponent Written Testimony

May 13, 2020

Steven Yeager, College and Career Readiness Teacher in Heath City Schools

Chairman Jones, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of HB 322

My name is Steven Yeager and I am concluding my third year of teaching. I work at Heath City Schools as a College and Career Readiness teacher, where I help connect students with opportunities for after graduation.

During the past three years, RESA has been hanging over my head and preventing me from being the best teacher I could be. At times I considered coaching a sport, or taking on the role of yearbook advisor, or beginning my master's degree. However, I was always cautioned against doing anything extra until after my third year: the RESA year. I was intimidated by stories from older teachers around me about the stress and demand of RESA, one science teacher on my floor even claiming it caused her to go into labor early with her first child.

Because of the additional work and the provision about permanently losing your teaching license with enough failures, RESA is viewed as a huge liability and something to be prioritized over other things. The worst thing that could happen would be to fail RESA multiple times and completely lose one's livelihood, a livelihood which new teachers have spent the past seven or more years working towards and earned through a series of competitive interviews.

This is to say nothing of the time that could be better allocated to improving actual teaching: the hours spent on the assessment and accompanying documentation and the days new educators have to take off work to be briefed on the program at their local educational service center.

I ask the committee once again to vote in favor of HB 322 and diminish the RESA burden on new educators.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your consideration. I am available to respond to any questions you may have.