Greeting Members of the Ohio Senate,

I am a 34 year veteran teacher in the Elyria School District. I teach Spanish at Elyria High School. I have been working a mentor with our new teachers for many years. A few years ago I became the Lead Mentor in our district. I work with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th year teachers. I applied for the job believing that I would be helping these teachers with lesson, analyzing assessments, and having good conversations about the teaching profession. Instead I have become the camera man for our 3rd year teachers, and my professional discussions have been about redacting student names from evidence and trying to help these teachers interpret rubrics. None of this actually helps these educators become better teachers. I believe in Mentoring and a mentoring program. I would love to follow these educators for 3 years doing observations and having those collegial conversations. That is not what is happening.

I hope you will consider the elimination of the RESA program. Let mentors who have been in the trenches guide these young teachers in their day-to-day reality of their teaching rather than these artificial situations.

Sincerely,

Teresa Brown

Lead Mentor

Elyria City Schools