

Senate Finance Committee
June 6, 2017

Good afternoon, Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on House Bill 49.

My name is Tori McCloud, and I am a first grade teacher and a 4th year Resident Educator in the Worthington City School District located in Columbus, Ohio. I am opposed to the amendment in Substitute House Bill 49 that would abolish the Resident Educator Program and the Resident Educator Summative Assessment.

Worthington City School District's Resident Educator Program has been a tremendous part of my growth and performance as an educator today. Our Resident Educator coordinator provided us hands-on, organized materials that all but eliminated our need to go and find needed documents for ourselves but also made us aware of the RESA website where we could find them on our own. In addition to being given these documents yearly, we walked through each one step by step as a group, which was vital in ensuring we had an understanding of each activity and how it would help us prepare for the Resident Educator Summative Assessment. My first year mentor was an invaluable resource that helped me build a strong foundation of best teaching practices for my students. In addition to frequent visits with my mentor, I had multiple opportunities to gather together with other Resident Educators to openly discuss our needs and strengths through self-reflection.

Every successful teacher will tell you that reflection is one of the most important keys to their success. The ability to self-critique and make changes to an activity for the sake of student engagement, retention, and other factors is not always natural to educators, especially new educators. Through my own experience with the RE program and the RESA, not only have I learned to reflect but the reflection process has been ingrained into my everyday teaching, making me focus on being intentional with my lesson planning and instruction for the benefit of my students. As you can see, this residency program is a critical need for the beginning of any new educator's career, as it helps to build a solid foundation of best practices aimed at student success. That is why I am urging you to maintain the Resident Educator Program and the Resident Educator Summative Assessment.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.