



OHIO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NETWORK

A Network of Center for Christian Virtue

Chair Gayle Manning, Vice Chair Adam Bird, Ranking Member Phil Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the 120 schools in the Ohio Christian Education Network to support HB 151. Replacing the Ohio Teacher Residency Program with a new teacher mentorship program would be a support to the growth of new teachers in their field.

Currently, in the first two years of the residency program new teachers are overwhelmed with lesson planning from their teaching roles while simultaneously attempting to juggle the work of the residency program including compiling a portfolio, making videos, and other extraneous tasks. This additional work takes away from the benefits new teachers receive by practicing in the field.

Similarly, we are supportive of establishing a local professional development committee to facilitate the program instead the state because the local community will be better equipped to know, understand, and be responsive to the needs of student and teachers in their area. Providing new teachers with the opportunity to learn from seasoned professionals instead of struggling to evaluate themselves is a beneficial change that will hopefully improve the quality of teachers in Ohio.

The 133rd General Assembly beneficially changed the program from four years to two. Year three of the current structure involves a copious amount of writing to compile the portfolio. Removing this task entirely by changing the program to a mentorship will give new teachers time to focus on their skills and assets in the classroom as teachers instead of the burden of worrying about a final score and potentially inconsistent grading on their portfolio.

The hardest part of teaching shouldn't be the assessments, burn out, and licensing. New teachers should have energy to invest in their students and learn from mentors who have experience instilling knowledge and excitement for learning in their students.

Respectfully,
Corrinne Vidales, Esq.

Assistant Director
Ohio Christian Education Network
Center for Christian Virtue