

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in regards to my opposition to HB 151.

My name is Mary Inmon-Teglovic, and I live in Huron County. With 40 plus years in education and in the classroom, I am strongly opposed to HB 151 that would abolish the current Resident Educator Program and require each district to create a new mentorship program.

I have a Bachelor's Degree from Ohio Northern University in mathematics and computer science, a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Ashland University and a Master's in Leadership from the University of Cincinnati. I have also served as a mentor and facilitator for the Resident Educator Program and as a district mentor and coordinator for our local mentoring program. I have participated in several different programs for our new educators in Ohio (pathwise, Praxis III, Ohio First, and Resident Educator). I have observed the impact on new educators when there is no state driven program and for this reason I must speak out against HB 151.

HB 151 would eliminate the Resident Educator Program's training and resources for mentors and program coordinators. The Resident Educator Program creates a bridge from college to the actual classroom with the assistance of a state certified mentor trained to provide differentiated support based on the needs of the Resident Educator. A state certified mentor is required for every Resident Educator. In order to complete the mentor training, the participant must have a professional teaching license with at least five years of teaching experience. Mentors complete two full days of training where coaching, equity, communication with parents and peers, collaboration with peers, teaching standards and formative assessments are discussed. This is a well-defined training and helps prepare mentors across our state to provide comprehensive support for our new educators.

The Resident Educator Program is one of the top teacher mentorship programs in the nation, and Ohio's teacher retention rate has improved since the start of the program. Instead of applying best practices from high-quality Resident Educator Programs, this bill will needlessly require each district to reinvent the wheel and cause chaos in the field during a very challenging time for our educators and students. Please talk with educators who were leading teacher mentorship programs before the start of the Resident Educator Program. They understand the reasons why the program was established and the positive impact it has had on our profession. I would hate to see our state take a step backwards by eliminating the Resident Educator Program and the RESA. I respectfully urge you to oppose HB 151.

Sincerely,

Mary Inmon-Teglovic

Resident Educator Program Coordinator

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