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OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

HB 151 – Interested Party Testimony

Scott DiMauro – OEA President

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The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

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Good afternoon Chair Manning, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Committee. I am a high school social studies teacher from Worthington with 16 years of classroom teaching experience and currently serving as President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide Interested Party feedback on Substitute HB 151.

HB 151 proposes a variety of changes to Ohio's Teacher Residency program (also known as the Resident Educator program). The Ohio General Assembly recently reduced this professional pathway program from four years to two years, a change supported by OEA. The resident educator program includes mentoring and professional development requirements, as well as a variety of tasks required to pass the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA). Ohio law requires teachers to successfully complete the resident educator program requirements and pass the summative assessment in order to become a fully licensed professional educator.

OEA highlights the following changes in Substitute HB 151 as improvements:

- Individuals who do not receive a passing score on the summative assessment must be provided the opportunity to meet with an instructional coach to review score results and discuss improvement strategies.
- School districts/schools must provide each classroom teacher who is not an administrator with one day of professional development leave each school year to observe a veteran teacher in a classroom setting.
- Prohibits the State Board of Education from limiting attempts to successfully complete the resident educator summative assessment.

While prohibiting limits on summative assessment attempts is a positive step towards striking the right balance in an early-career pathway progression, OEA continues to request elimination of the requirement that individuals pass a summative assessment to become fully licensed as a professional educator.

OEA recommends more clarity around the proposal to allow resident educators to choose from a pool of “high quality” online mentors. How will “high quality” online mentors be defined and by whom? Will a district/school be able to review/approve the mentorship activities of online mentors who are not employees of the district/school? OEA also recommends establishing minimum requirements for online mentors, such as holding a current Ohio professional educator license and being included in any statewide requirements for mentor training.

Thank you for your consideration of this feedback regarding Substitute HB 151.