



May 24, 2022

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Manning, Vice Chair Bird, Ranking Member Robinson, and Members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Substitute House Bill 151.

My name is Matt Verber, and I am the Chief Operating Officer for TeachForward, the vendor for Ohio's Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA), which is a part of the Resident Educator Program.

On behalf of TeachForward, I would like to thank Representative Jones and his legislative aide, AJ Thomas, for engaging with stakeholders and introducing a compromise in the substitute bill that maintains the Resident Educator Program and the RESA, while providing Resident Educators and districts with greater flexibility and support.

The substitute bill provides Resident Educators with a longer window to submit the RESA, faster turnaround for their results, more opportunities to take the RESA, and the option to meet with an instructional coach if they are unsuccessful on the RESA.

With the substitute bill, districts will not be required to create new programs or change the format of their current programs. Instead, program coordinators, mentors, facilitators, and Resident Educators will have the option to access new online professional development resources.

The new professional development resources and support provided by Substitute House Bill 151 will help ensure that every beginning teacher in Ohio is able to demonstrate the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession. TeachForward greatly appreciates the efforts of the committee to make this possible.