

Chairman Bird, Vice Chair Fowler Arthur, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Emma White and I am currently a sophomore at the University of Findlay. I am majoring in primary general education along with intervention for grades kindergarten through 12. During the past two years as a student, I have come to understand the importance of building my knowledge to address the needs of typically developing students as well as those who have special needs. This training allows me to meet the diverse needs of students found in any classroom I may find myself in. It is hard for me to imagine someone with no training in content or pedagogy being able to support the needs of their students and help them gain the knowledge and skills they need to be successful. My training is comprehensive and intense, and all of Ohio's schoolchildren deserve teachers trained similarly. I ask that you remove the provisions in SB 168 that lessen the licensure requirements for teachers and teacher leaders. Thank you for the opportunity for me to speak to you today.