

Members of the Education Committee,

My name is Mathew Felton-Koestler. Thank you for considering my written testimony. I have worked in the field of teacher education at the university level for the last 14 years, 10 of which have been here in Ohio. I have a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

I am writing today to express my support for Senate Bill 219, which will restore three grade bands for teacher licensure: pre-K to grade 5, grades 4 to 9, and grades 7 to 12. I support this bill because it allows us to provide a high quality education for students. There is a significant body of research that points to the specialized knowledge needed to teach. The most effective teachers have deep knowledge about children's development, teaching techniques, and flexible and varied approaches to the academic content. The grade band licensures of preK-5, 4-9, and 7-12 provide enough coverage and flexibility while also allowing teachers to develop the specialized knowledge they need to best meet their students' learning needs.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Felton-Koestler', written over a horizontal line.

Mathew Felton-Koestler