



Honorable Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (OACTE), which represents over 50 colleges and universities dedicated to preparing educators for Ohio's P-12 schools. OACTE serves as a state affiliate of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), comprising more than 800 postsecondary institutions nationwide committed to high-quality, evidence-based educator preparation.

We are pleased to offer our full support for Senate Bill 219, as it aligns with our mission to ensure that educators are well-equipped to meet the diverse needs of all learners. Here are the key reasons why OACTE supports SB 219:

- **Preparing Teachers for Specific Developmental Periods:** Returning to the three licensure bands will enable a continued emphasis on specific developmental periods. By maintaining this focus, we can ensure that educators possess the necessary competencies to foster academic success among students throughout their educational journey.
- **Focus on Content Knowledge:** Returning to the three licensure bands will enable a continued emphasis on preparing middle childhood teachers with deep knowledge in their content areas.
- **Preservation of Inclusive Programs:** Restoring the three licensure bands will allow current inclusive programs to adequately prepare for two licenses simultaneously, particularly for Special Education and General Education grades P-5. The recent change in the grade band to P-8, as outlined in HB 33, presents logistical challenges that may hinder the effective preparation of educators for these critical roles. Returning to the previous licensure structure will provide the necessary time and resources to ensure comprehensive training for educators serving diverse student populations.
- **Flexibility for Local Leaders:** Maintaining the ability for local leaders to adjust a teacher's placement up to two years outside their professional license is essential for meeting the unique needs of each district. This flexibility empowers school administrators to leverage their knowledge of teachers' expertise and instructional strengths, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of educational programs and services.

In conclusion, OACTE believes that Senate Bill 219 is necessary for making sure Ohio's schoolchildren are learning from comprehensively trained teachers. We urge the members of the Senate Committee to support this critical legislation, which aligns with our shared commitment to excellence in education.

Thank you for considering our testimony and for your dedication to the future of education in our state.

Sincerely,

Mary Heather Munger, PhD
President, Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Dawn Shinew, PhD, and James Hannon, PhD
Co-Chairs, State University Education Deans

Diana Garlough, EdD
President, Ohio Association of Private Colleges for Teacher Education