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State Representative - District 53

Thank you Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso, Ranking Member Robinson and the members of the House Education Committee for giving me the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony today in support of House Bill 191 to increase the minimum starting teacher salary in Ohio to \$50,000.

In the coming years, Ohio will need a more robust education system to accommodate the increase in job opportunities across the state. Teachers will be the backbone of any future economic growth, but our state will first need to catch up in compensation to secure the talent needed to make this a reality.

The national average for base teacher pay, as of 2023, is \$42,844, which puts Ohio far behind in teacher compensation.¹ Young Ohioans looking to have a career in education would, therefore, look out of state for jobs.

Compensation has not kept up with inflation, meaning Ohio teachers are making \$3,644 less than ten years ago.¹ Adding to their expenses, the average teacher spends \$820 of their own money per year to help stock their classrooms.² Many are forced to take on second jobs after the school day or during the summer to stay afloat.³ HB 191 would increase the base salary for beginning teachers with a bachelor's degree from \$35,000 to \$50,000. In an ever-competitive economy, Ohio cannot afford to dismiss our teachers. Raising the base compensation to \$50,000 will attract new talent and help current teachers stay in the state of Ohio and continue to educate our children.

This bill would be particularly impactful in rural areas where districts are struggling to attract teachers to fill open positions. A higher starting salary will make rural school districts more competitive with urban and suburban schools. Ohioans expect the best for their children, but the current educational system's circumstances make it impossible to maximize the potential of all of Ohio's children. Lifting the burdens of financial insecurity off the shoulders of Ohio teachers will ensure they can focus on what matters most: our children.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to speak on HB 191. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sources

1:<https://www.nea.org/resource-library/educator-pay-and-student-spending-how-does-your-state-rank>

2:<https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/out-pocket-spending-school-supplies-adds-strain-educators>

3:<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/long-hours-second-jobs-new-federal-data-give-a-snapshot-of-the-teaching-profession/2022/12>

