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Committees

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Representative Gayle Manning
Ohio House District 52

Chair Fowler Arthur, Vice Chair Odioso and members of the House Education Committee, thank you for giving me the chance to provide sponsor testimony for House Bill 523. As a retired educator for thirty-seven years, I can say with some certainty that being able provide a quality education to Ohio's youth is paramount to the success of this state, and that success starts with supporting our future educators.

As my counterpart Representative Brennan stated earlier, both the state and the rest of the country are facing an increasing percentage of teacher shortages. In order to combat this issue, it is our responsibility as legislators to help provide the necessary resources and opportunities that set up our state's aspiring educators up for success.

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to meet with a handful of constituents who are currently student teachers. Over the course of the meeting, I learned that many of the students and their fellow student teachers were working one or two more jobs on top of their student teaching responsibilities just to make ends meet. As one can imagine, maintaining such a schedule can be burdensome and affect the quality of instruction being displayed in the classroom. House Bill 523 would help relieve some of the burden that student teachers face and allow them to focus on becoming great educators.

I believe many, if not all of us, in this room can agree that teachers are part of the foundation that not only make up this state, but for the entire country. Educators are at the core of just about every profession you can think of (doctors, lawyers, business etc.). That is why this

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piece of legislation is so vital as it will help create a sustainable and talented workforce of future educators and hopefully help remedy the teacher shortage across the state.

Thank you for giving me the time to speak on House Bill 523 and I respectfully ask for your support. I would be happy to answer any questions.