

Senate Finance Committee
June 7, 2017

Good afternoon, Chairman Oelslager, Vice Chair Manning, Ranking Member Skindell, and members of the Senate Finance Committee. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to submit written testimony on House Bill 49.

My name is Lori Michalec, and I am a public school teacher and a Lead Mentor in the Tallmadge City School District, wherein I co-coordinate the Resident Educator program. I am writing today to voice my strong opposition to the amendment in Substitute HB 49 that would eliminate the Resident Educator Program and the Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA). I have mentored in my district for over 12 years, undertaking training to support new teachers under Pathwise, Praxis, and now the Resident Educator Program. In my work, both as a Lead Mentor who co-facilitates our district's program and as the 2015 Ohio Teacher of the Year, I have met with stakeholders from across Ohio who recognize the value of this program.

The Resident Educator Program is an articulated program that ties college experiences and reflection, through EdTPA, to the growth of educators in the classroom, and prepares candidates to better meet the demands of an ever-evolving career. Moreover, completion of the RESA ensures we have educators of the highest quality in classrooms to work with children, and it promotes educators' growth along the continuum for teacher advancement, whether that means pursuing Master Teacher status or National Board Certification. The value of the program is extensive, and great strides have been made by both the Ohio Department of Education and Educopia, the vendor for the assessment, to assure alignment of the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession with tasks on the RESA. Elimination of this program will undermine the efforts of educators to elevate the profession and may, inevitably, lead to a disintegration of support resources and programming to nurture entry year teachers. The Resident Educator Program and the RESA foster collaboration, encourage ongoing self-reflection, and help more inexperienced staff understand the need for intentional and purposeful professional development.

The value of the program deserves further conversation and consideration; thus, I respectfully urge you to remove the amendment from the budget bill at this time. As I can certainly elaborate on numerous advantages beyond those provided, I ask that you consider contacting me at Michalec.Lori@tallmadgeschools.org.

Thank you,
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