



The Ohio Association of Colleges of Teacher Education

<http://www.acteohio.org/>

June 15, 2017

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Finance Committee:

I am Dr. Erica Brownstein. I taught high school chemistry, physics, AP physics, and computer science. My faculty position was at a small liberal arts institution where I taught science education. I now am in administration at a state university.

Today, I am here as Chair of the State University Education Deans, SUED.

As an education researcher, my dream, my drive is to make a significant impact. Right now, Ohio has high quality data that could dramatically impact the teaching in our P-12 schools. I have recently become engaged with the state legislative process. One thing clear to me is each of you is determined to carefully consider every decision that may lead to legislation. And all of us are investing in the next generation by ensuring quality education.

RESA is a performance assessment with a wealth of data. This valid and reliable instrument can provide us with knowledge of how to improve our educator preparation programs, what targeted professional development is needed, and how to fill in the gap from novice to master teacher. For example, statewide, the subscore on plans for formative assessment is low. If applicable, this would logically lead to professional development on formative assessment. It would also inform the district leaders how to support their local leaders. This type of data is powerful. Although previously this data has not been provided at the school and university level, the vendor has plans to share data subscore summaries.

A second point pertains to the use of the licensure fee funds.

In February 2008, the State Board of Education approved increases, which went into effect in March 2008, to the fee schedule for all licenses and permits for Ohio educators. On an annualized basis, most of the fees were increased from \$12 to \$40 per year. For example, the five-year professional licensure fee increased from \$60 (\$12 x 5 years) to \$200 (\$40 x 5 years). The State has consistently assured teachers that their licensure fees would be used **solely** for purposes **directly** related to teacher licensure.

Teachers' licensure fees should not fund programs not directly related to licensure, regardless of whether those programs serve a noble cause.

The state has made a promise to the teaching profession that the funds they pay for their licenses will support educators. There is no better way to spend those monies, as promised, than on Ohio's Resident Educator Program and RESA.