



House Bill 151: Interested Party Testimony

Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee

December 6, 2022

Thank you, Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and Members of the Senate Primary and Secondary Education Committee for providing me the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 151.

My name is Matt Verber, and I am the Chief Operating Officer for TeachForward, the vendor for Ohio's Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA), which is a part of the Resident Educator Program. As the vendor for the RESA, TeachForward is committed to supporting Ohio's beginning teachers, and we are dedicated to continuous improvement.

The sponsor of House Bill 151, Representative Jones, worked with stakeholders and introduced a compromise in the substitute bill, which the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee passed with a unanimous vote. The substitute bill maintains the Resident Educator Program and the RESA, while providing Resident Educators and districts with greater flexibility and support.

Over the past several years, Resident Educators have often requested the following changes that are included in the substitute bill: longer window to submit the RESA, faster turnaround for their results, more opportunities to take the RESA, ability to view classroom videos from past RESA submissions, and the option to meet with an instructional coach if they are unsuccessful on the RESA.

With the substitute bill, districts will not be required to create new programs or change the format of their current programs. Instead, program coordinators, mentors, facilitators, and Resident Educators will have greater flexibility and the option to access new online professional development resources.

The new professional development resources and support provided by House Bill 151 will help ensure that every beginning teacher in Ohio is able to demonstrate the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession and every Ohio student has an effective teacher leading their classroom.