



Chairman Jones, Vice-Chair Manchester, Ranking Member Robinson, and members of the House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, I am Bob Priest, and I am the Principal at Van Wert High School in Van Wert. I am writing this letter in support of the removal of the year 3 summative assessment requirements which have been mandated in the Resident Educator Program.

My experience has shown that although a teacher has 2 years' experience, he/she is continuing to put many hours into lesson plans and assessments. Aside from those daily tasks, there are many other requirements for teachers: complying with Public School Works, looking at data for yearly growth on an individual student's ability, creating meaningful relationships in order to create a positive school culture which correlates with PBIS, which is yet another requirement of the general assembly, and as a teacher with only 2 years' experience, still reviewing and becoming more knowledgeable with the state standards.

Teachers may not always teach the same subject on a yearly basis and that requires additional time. This would be similar to a congressman being switched from one committee to another and being expected to Chair that committee in his/her first year. Educators must be the "chairman" of the classroom. Having these additional requirements for educators takes away from their ability to improve and does not help them. As a local district, we've learned the amount of work these teachers were committing to the third year, and as a result, allowed them one professional day of leave - that is one day out of the classroom and away from students - to finalize their work. Mentoring is great and we support that, but please understand the life of an educator before placing unnecessary demands upon a very demanding profession.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Priest  
Principal, Van Wert High School