



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

Ohio Education Association

House Primary and Secondary Education Committee

House Bill 322 – Proponent Written Testimony

May 13, 2020

Chairman Jones, Ranking Member Robinson and members of the Ohio House Primary and Secondary Education Committee, my name is Scott DiMauro and I am the President of the Ohio Education Association (OEA). Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony in support of House Bill 322. This bill is jointly sponsored by Rep. Don Jones and Rep. Don Manning. It has bi-partisan co-sponsorship.

OEA is a proponent of House Bill 322 because it strengthens professional support services for new teachers and removes unnecessary barriers that get in the way of teachers serving their students. OEA recommends passage of the bill.

House Bill 322 is the result of advocacy by early career educators. Under the bill, the Ohio Teacher Residency Program would be refocused into a two-year professional initiation experience for new classroom teachers. The supports provided to new educators will be centered around strong mentorship relationships and professional development programs that are locally designed to have an effective impact.

The Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) would be eliminated by House Bill 322. The RESA has proven to be a time-consuming and cumbersome requirement that provides little value to new teachers and their students. New educators who have experienced the RESA overwhelmingly recommend elimination of this wasteful and counterproductive requirement. These educators have long expressed deep concern about the onerous paperwork and extraneous tasks required by the RESA. Compliance with the RESA significantly interferes with the time needed to focus on academic instruction and other responsibilities to students. Now is the time to eliminate the RESA.

In summary, this is a good bill. OEA appreciates the efforts made by the joint sponsors of House Bill 322 to listen to these concerns and to craft a bill that helps teachers and students.

Thank you for your consideration.