



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

## OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Ohio Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee

House Bill 442

December 16, 2020

Good morning Chair McColley, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Transportation, Commerce and Workforce Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 442. I am Matthew Dotson with the Ohio Education Association in Government Relations.

Under a HB 442 amendment pending consideration by the committee, numerous licenses required to work in public schools would be eliminated. OEA opposes elimination of these licenses. The amendment also has several provisions that are more measured and have the support of OEA. These include reducing the *Resident Educator License* program from four years to two years; exempting career-tech teachers with an alternative resident educator license from taking a performance-based assessment as part of the program; and limiting the fee for a professional educator license.

OEA opposes provisions in the amendment eliminating state license requirements for individuals performing the following functions on behalf of students and taxpayers: school treasurer, business manager, educational aide, paraprofessional classroom aide, pupil services personnel (includes school speech language pathologists, audiologists, school nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers), alternative administrator (principal, superintendent and any other administrator positions), and temporary educator license (for superintendents and other administrators).

First, eliminating these educator licenses removes an important statewide safeguard for student safety. Statewide licenses allow the State Board of Education to take action to revoke or suspend an individual's license in the interest of student safety (e.g. for convictions of certain offenses or other conduct unbecoming that creates a potential threat to student safety).

Second, eliminating these licenses and their associated requirements removes a basic quality safeguard for students and taxpayers. State licenses establish minimum qualifications designed to ensure individuals have basic preparation necessary to deliver high-quality educational services in a school setting. Well-designed state licenses serve the interest of strong public schools and their students.



OEA recommends the committee hold additional hearings to further review the potential impact of completely eliminating these education licenses. There are likely a variety of alternative approaches that can reduce barriers to employment in public schools without completely eliminating basic safeguards for safety and quality.

OEA stands ready to participate in further discussions to develop well-rounded proposals that support the work of educators and students.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am available for any question you may have.