

February 25, 2021

The intent of this letter is to express my strong opposition to HB 2868. As a veteran ESD superintendent and former OEIB board member, I worked extensively with higher education in the creation of the Eastern Promise. This innovative 11-14 partnership resulted in an incredibly successful program, resulting in countless dual credits, certifications, and AAOT degrees earned over the past 10 years.

The true transformation in the Eastern Promise was the creation of the Sponsored Dual Credit pathway for high school teachers to award dual credit on the high school campus. Rather than relying on the old dual credit model, in which high school teachers were required to have a Masters in a specific content area, Sponsored Dual Credit allows Masters Level high school teachers to award 100 and 200 level credit. Under the direction of college faculty in regional Professional Learning Communities, regional teachers collaborate together to determine curriculum, assessments, and levels of proficiency.

This bill is unnecessary and imposes additional restrictions on current models. It requires additional college coursework and requirements for burdened high school teachers, which research consistently demonstrates has little impact on quality teaching and student mastery. If this bill passes, fewer high school teachers will be approved by college partners, resulting in less opportunities for students across the state. It will only increase the opportunity gap, rather than the narrowing which occurred in the Eastern Promise.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Mulvihill, Ed.D
Superintendent