

February 21, 2023

TO: House Committee on Education

RE: Support of HB2609 and removing fees for EPP Programs to be paid to TSPC

Corban University's School of Education supports HB2609 and the removal of TSCP collecting fees from EPPs in the state of Oregon. Our concerns regarding broader implication to EPPs in the state have been expressed clearly in the public comments and communications from OACTE and OAICU. However, we wanted to add additional comment and concern of how these fees will impact our programs and students.

Corban University had 42 completers in the 2021-22 school year across five programs. Based upon these numbers, our required fee would be \$9,000.00 annually. This amount would be a 25% increase to what has been budgeted for the 2022-23 school year. There has been a drop in enrollment at 4-year college and universities around the state, and Corban is not exempt from this trend. As a result, the university has already been in a mode of trimming budgets. To relinquish another \$9,000.00 would be a challenge. At the same time, it would be unreasonable to completely pass the burden of the fee onto students as the additional fee would come to around \$325 per student as our numbers in the School of Education continue to decrease. If we had the number of students to support 40+ completers a year, the per student cost would still be around \$225.

Over the past few years, TSPC and the State of Oregon has worked to reduce barriers, especially financial, for those wanting to enter the field of education. The removal of the basic skills test requirement and the exploration of a local assessment option in place of the edTPA are two examples of recent advances toward this goal. The addition of this fee appears to be inconsistent with this desire to diversify the teaching workforce by removing barriers. A candidate at Corban University, in their final year of teacher preparation, already has the following fees:

- Fingerprinting and fees: \$91
- Content Exam(s): \$95 each
- ESOL Content Exam: \$95 (all Multiple Subject candidates also receive this endorsement)
- Student Teaching Course Fee: \$500 (Covers supervisor mileage, Cooperating Teacher Stipends, Collaborative Partnership expenses, etc.)
- University Graduation Fee: \$150 (Required to finalize transcript for licensure)
- TSPC License Application: \$197

Total: \$1,128.00

An additional \$300+ fee for students would bring the amount of out-of-pocket expense for a candidate in their final year of teacher preparation to nearly \$1,500. The removal of the edTPA cost made it feasible to keep this amount around \$1,000, but the additional TSPC fee would make that impossible.

We reiterate our support for HB2609 as we believe it will decrease the difficulty of pursuing education as a career for our students and prevent our department from having to decrease the quality of our program and what we can offer.

Sincerely,



Aaron Imig, Ed.D
Dean, School of Education
Corban University