



February 22, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support of HB 2609 which removes TSPC's authority to establish and collect fees from educator preparation programs (EPP) based upon number of licenses or type of programs offered. According to TSPC's proposed fee schedule, issued on March 24, 2022, Bushnell University would be facing \$9,000 in fees. Our institution's EPP annual completer rate historically falls within TSPC's proposed Tier 2 range and reflects an anticipated fee of \$4,000. Our EPP offers eight programs constituting initial, advanced, endorsements, and specializations. As such, this falls within the proposed Tier 3 category and represents an additional fee of \$5,000. Should this bill fail, our program will be facing upwards of \$10,000 in TSPC fees. In our efforts to support collective local and stateside efforts to diversify the educator workforce and address the teacher shortage, we will do everything we can to avoid passing this financial burden on to our candidates. In our efforts to hold our candidates harmless, the EPP would need to bear the brunt of these significant fees. Such added expenses would *not* be budgeted within the institution's broader general fund. Rather, costs would be covered by the EPP resulting in a need to reduce departmental budget line items *OR* pass the cost on to students. Budget adjustments would most likely include reductions in instructional and professional resources for faculty and teacher/school counseling candidates. Funds that support stakeholder engagement would also be negatively impacted. It is important to note that TSPC fees would be coupled with those associated with national accreditation. Our EPP is currently amid our AAQEP accreditation process with anticipated approval in the Spring of 2024. With this comes accreditation fees of \$11,000. Added to this flat fee are additional costs to cover travel expenses for reviewers for an anticipated total cost of \$20,000. The combined expenses are profound and, together, would add even more financial hardship to our EPP and undoubtedly impact available funds currently allocated to adjunct instructors and field supervisors.

Thank you for your continued support of Educator Preparation Programs and educator candidates! Further, your support in passing HB 2609 is requested and greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Suzanne Price  
Associate Dean School of Education