



TO: Representative Susan McLain

FROM: OACTE Executive Team

DATE: February 28, 2023

RE: Eastern Oregon University, College of Education Support for HB 2609

Dear Representative McLain,

This letter is provided on behalf of Eastern Oregon University's support of HB 2609 to remove authority of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission from establishing and collecting fees from educator preparation providers based on number of license applications received by commission from the provider or type of educator preparation programs offered by the provider.

The fee established by Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) is an additional cost placed on Educator Preparation Programs (EPP) in the state when educator programs and higher education institutions are struggling financially, and most regional institutions across the United States see a decrease in enrollment. Thus, these EPP-specific fees may have to be imposed on those who cannot, and should not be imposed upon, our teacher candidates enrolled in EPPs.

In the past five years, EPPs have taken on the financial burden required for national accreditation. When EOU began preparing to meet national accreditation requirements, we were informed that we would need to purchase a third-party assessment package, placing another cost burden on the university that was not previously required. EOU, similar to many EPPs, had to change some faculty duties from teaching to understanding and planning to meet the national accreditation standards. Because of this necessary focus on achieving national accreditation, additional hiring was required to fill this teaching gap, placing another additional cost on EPPs. National accreditation requires membership to the accreditation body. The fees include yearly membership costs, the additional costs for hosting a national review team, and the associated costs for the many participants required during the accreditation site visit. These costs have placed additional burdens on already tight budgets at the institution.

Currently, approximately 50% of licenses that are processed at TSPC are candidates prepared from outside Oregon. Unfortunately, Oregon EPPs are being asked to support

TPSC while other programs are not. Oregon EPPs only being asked to cover the cost is an inequitable ask of EPPs.

The College of Education at EOU continues to navigate strategies to reduce financial barriers associated with becoming an educator, including the cost of TSPC required assessments (content tests costs – approximately \$100.00 per attempt, edTPA cost - \$300.00), licensing application fees (\$184.00), costs associated with completing student teaching (gas, housing), tuition, and navigating the complex financial implications of not being able to work during the student teaching experience. Teacher candidates should not be asked to take on any additional costs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter in support of HB 2609. If there are any questions regarding any of the information provided in this letter, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angela Vossenkuhl". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink on a white background.

Angela Vossenkuhl
Interim Chair, College of Education
Eastern Oregon University