

Submitter: Brett Baxter
On Behalf Of: Colby Knifong
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2588

The apprenticeship program for teachers is a vital aspect in growing teachers in the State of Oregon. Many colleges or universities do not have student teachers in the schools until their 3rd, 4th, or 5th year of school. Student teachers are not getting quality time and training in the classroom before they are given their own room. If schools are given the opportunity to train people within, using an apprenticeship program, they will pick people that have a heart for students, a desire to learn, and can train them daily in all aspects of school. The apprenticeship program allows mentees to practice skills under a mentor teacher and to be given immediate feedback. They can be trained in specific skill sets (much like an electrician or a plumber) and keep practicing it until it is mastered. They have time to ask questions, try different methods, and watch experienced teachers showing various strategies. Teacher drop out rate is at an all time high in our country. The apprenticeship program will put more teachers that are highly qualified into our system. Schools will be able to grow their own teachers and hopefully not have the teacher burn out/drop out rate that we are currently experiencing, and instead be building stronger and more resilient teachers that have more tools in their belt when starting their own classroom.

Sincerely,
Colby C Knifong
Teacher in Eastern Oregon for 29 years