

Submitter: Ashley Flood

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB717

Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Webber. and Members of the Committee,  
My name is Ashley Flood, and I am fifth grade teacher in Forest Grove School. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB717, which seeks to address financial barriers for aspiring educators and ensure mentor teachers receive fair compensation.

I student taught at University of Oregon in 2021-22. It was really hard financially on me. I had minimal scholarships and I was unable to have a job with full time student teaching. I am now working on paying in student loans off and that is restricting me from how much I save.

Student teaching is a full time UNPAID teaching job. On top of going to full time grad school, it is impossible to earn and save money. Many of my classmates had to extend their grad school which lead to more student debt and many did not even finish school. I now have friends who are quitting teaching because they can't pay off the loans. Paid student teaching would help with student loans. I urge you to support SB717. This will create more educators which we so desperately need.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Flood

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Forest Grove School District