

Submitter: Tamara Madden  
On Behalf Of: LCEA  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB717

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice Chair Webber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tamara Madden. I am an educator in the Lincoln County School District and Building Representative for the Lincoln County Education Association. I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB717, which seeks to address financial barriers for aspiring educators and ensure mentor teachers receive fair compensation.

In my own experience, Education was a second career for me. I decided to pursue Education after working in a Business environment because I felt drawn to support my community. Leaving a paid position to complete the Master's of Education program was difficult for my family. It became almost unmanageable when I began my student teaching practicum. For 12 weeks I paid the expenses of a full time teacher including transportation, child care, housekeeping and school supplies. The District I worked for prohibited student teachers from working other jobs because of the commitment required for evening activities. Despite my husband's high paying career it was difficult for our family to make ends meet and I nearly dropped out from the financial burden.

The barriers to surviving student teaching are too much for most people. As a Union Representative I hear from our many new teachers how difficult it is for them to recover from the previous student teaching period and often find themselves trying to moonlight their first year of work to recover.

Please consider that we do not expect slaves in our society and yet one of our most trusted professions essentially relies on unpaid labor for entry.

Sincerely,

Tamara Madden  
Lincoln County Education Association