

Submitter: Emma Empol
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 Emma Empol, and I am a 3rd year teacher at Springfield high 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.

When I was a student beginning my student teaching I actually took out my emergency license and began working at Springfield High as a learning specialist. I worked full time and went to school full time. It was the only way I could afford to go to school and pay my bills while still completing the program requirements. Unfortunately this route is not for everyone and will burn teachers out, it lead me to taking time off my second year so I could last in the profession.

My program and many others restrict part time jobs in the student teaching section of the program. This is often due to student teaching during the day and taking classes at night.

I urge a vote for this bill, to support educators in their beginning years and allow them to student teach without becoming a licensed teacher at the same time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Emma Empol

Springfield high school learning specialist