

Submitter: Preston Hobbs  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB717

I have been student teaching at Philomath Middle School through Oregon State University since September of 2024. While it has been an incredibly valuable experience for me to have before I move on to becoming a professional teacher, it has also made me question the value society actually places on teachers especially at the state and federal level. Teachers are one of the very few professions which are expected to work an entire year without any sort of compensation and this is not even to mention the amount of fees we must pay to the state for our licensure on top of the tuition we are already paying to the University. I am very lucky that I have a financially supportive family and fiancée which have helped me to cover the basic expenses to get by as well as some generous grants I have received which have helped with tuition. If it wasn't for the massive amount of help I have received it would be close to impossible to survive while student teaching.

In the short term it makes no financial sense to become a teacher in Oregon. If anything it is a financial drain as we are expected to cover not only the recurring fees for our licensure but also pay for our own on the job training while trying to pay bills. If we want teachers who are truly motivated and representative of our community we must give them at least the very basics to survive. This bill would put Oregon on par with many other states that have already passed similar bills to help student teachers get by while they are preparing to educate the next generation. It is essential for the future of Oregon's education system and therefore Oregon as a whole, which has lagged behind the rest of the country in terms of education. It starts with properly compensating the people who are putting in the time to make it better.