

Submitter:

Natalie Whisler

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB717

As an educator, administrator and mother of an aspiring educator, I urge you to support SB717. Like many educators, I worked to get myself through my degree. When I reached student teaching, I was pregnant with my first child. Cutting back on work hours was a serious financial hardship. I kept working on weekends, making for a grueling week, but I still needed to take on additional student debt to make it through. Now, as a district administrator, I see the continued need for support for future educators. I work with many talented paraeducators who are slowly putting themselves through school while working in schools filling critical roles. I know that student teaching will be a barrier as they forego income and I would hate to see this barrier keep more talented individuals from teaching. Thank you for your consideration.