

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

My name is Jayda Crawford, and I am a college graduate from Western Oregon University's Education Bachelor program. 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 am currently a substitute teacher in Oregon with a degree in Elementary Education and a foundational mathematics endorsement. During my student teaching experience at Western Oregon, I worked as a Resident Assistant for the University as well as an emergency substitute for Central School District 13J. Every student teacher will have their own story regarding their experience being a student, upcoming teacher and community member. For me, being a student completing a full time career schedule, completing a degree, and being a member of society was challenging without being properly financially supported. Working a full time 40 hour week on top of other jobs made my outlook on my future career less than enjoyable. This is not because of my student teaching program, but because I was feeling burnt out before even stepping into my dream role as a teacher. I was less enthusiastic about my education and the education I was providing the students in my classroom because my workload felt unbearing. I understand the rigor that needs to go into a student teaching program in order for students to become the best teacher they can be. However, I believe future educators could excel in their program with support from financials. Being able to worry less about being a financially stable member of society would allow more time to focus on the education we provide for our students.

I urge you as the committee determining the future support student teachers receive, to advocate for SB717.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jayda Crawford

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Educator