

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

My name is Sophie Reynolds, and I am an aspiring educator, in the elementary education major at Oregon State University. 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.

Although I have not yet started my year in the classroom as a mentor teacher, it is something that weighs heavily on my mind. The upcoming financial strain of essentially working a full time job, yet receiving no income will undoubtedly be a difficult time for my family. Along with being a full time student, I am a mother to my sweet baby boy, Tulio. With the price of quality childcare being as high as it is, you can imagine how my bank account looks after I pay the sitter and my tuition bill. As the time constraints of school continue to grow as I enter my mentor teacher phase, I worry about the financial strain my family will face.

If SB717 is passed, the future I face as a mentor teacher and as a new graduate would not be so daunting. If given the chance to provide for my family during my mentor year, I would be eternally grateful for the chance to focus first and foremost on becoming the best teacher I can be, as well as giving my son the quality of life he deserves.

Thank you for your time.

Sophie Reynolds
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