

Submitter: Bria Benson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB717

Testimony in Support of SB717
Oregon State Legislature – Senate Committee on Education
March 3, 2025

Dear Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bria, and I am a mechanical engineering student at Oregon State University. I am writing to express my strong support for SB717, which proposes providing stipends to student teachers and their mentors.

As part of my engineering education, I have the opportunity to participate in a paid internship, allowing me to gain practical experience while receiving financial compensation. In contrast, my friend, who is pursuing a degree in elementary education, is required to complete a full-time student teaching placement without any financial support. Despite working diligently and contributing significantly to the classroom, student teachers often face financial hardships due to the lack of compensation during their training.

This disparity not only places an undue burden on future educators but also discourages talented individuals from entering the teaching profession, especially those from underrepresented or economically disadvantaged backgrounds. If we aim to uphold the value of education in our society, it is imperative that we support our future teachers from the onset of their careers.

SB717 represents a crucial step toward rectifying this inequity by ensuring that student teachers receive the financial recognition they deserve. By supporting this bill, we invest in the quality of education and the well-being of those dedicated to shaping the minds of future generations.

Thank you for considering my perspective. I respectfully urge you to support SB717.

Sincerely,

Bria
Mechanical Engineering Student
Oregon State University