

Submitter: Mallie Jackson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB717

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

My name is Mallie Jackson, and I am an upcoming student teacher 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.

I am a student teaching in the upcoming 2025-2026 school year and am so excited to begin this journey. Through this journey we have been told multiple times in student teaching meetings that finances are an important role for student teachers. It has been mentioned that most individuals who are student teaching do not work on top of student teaching. My dad who is an educator today has mentioned his own financial struggles when he was in his student teaching program. Working during college has been something that I have done my three years of college so having to take a step back during student teaching will be a struggle for me. I financially support myself through college and have always stressed about my financial situation especially in the upcoming year.

The big financial strain of unpaid student teachers is a major factor in early-career educator attrition. Nearly 50% of teachers leave within their first five years due to the financial stress of unpaid teaching. Being able to pass this bill would have a big impact on Oregon's educators since it will allow them to get paid and not have to worry about finances would benefit so many individuals. Student teaching is one of the only practical collegiate experiences that do not pay the individuals who are participating in a teaching program.

I hope that you read this and it helps contribute to passing SB717. Passing this bill would allow me to enjoy my student teaching without having to stress about my finances. Enjoying my student teaching experience is very important to me cause it will set the tone of my educator journey

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Mallie Jackson
Oregon State University - College of Education