

Submitter: Heidi Deininger
On Behalf Of: SB717
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB717

As a parent of a future educator, and an educator myself, I strongly encourage the passage of SB 717. There are very few professions in our country that require an entire year of an unpaid internship. It is really difficult for aspiring teachers to pay for college tuition while working a full time job that is not compensated. It is unfair and unrealistic. When we consider the plight in the field of education, we are in an unfortunate teacher shortage that is close to crisis level. Not only are aspiring teachers seeing the anger and hate towards public schools and teachers that is being propagated by our current federal officials, they are also feeling the effects of low wages and a long term commitment before they can retire. It seems that if we want our schools to have the best educators possible, we need to get them started with in the profession by treating them with respect and paying them for the time they are spending learning and growing in the field. Please allow for our student teachers to be paid while they are spending long hours learning about the profession.