

Thank you, Chair Senator Dembrow, Vice-Chair Senator Thomsen, and Senator Gelsler, Senator Gorsek, and Senator Robinson, for taking the time to read my testimony.

In the spring of 2019, I decided to go back to school and become a teacher. I found a program at Corban University and eagerly started the program in September. I was nervous going back to school after staying home for 16 years with our kids. I loved the classes, my classmates, and the content. My classes were at night or online, and it was hard working my job and being a parent, but I loved it.

A few months into the program, I learned I would need to complete something called the edTPA and my student teaching. It is my expert testimony as I just finished my student teaching this last fall, 2020. The edTPA is a waste of valuable time, money, and an equitable barrier for students of color, students with learning disabilities, and economic barriers.

I have reached out for help from educators who have completed and passed the edTPA, all of them reassure me to push through because you won't ever use it again. I'm not sure about you, but that bothers me. Why are we torturing talented students who have excellent grades, excellent reviews from their supervisors, and their cooperating teacher with an assessment written and scored by Pearson, a textbook company?

The edTPA standardizes the student teaching process with narrow parameters, actively creating barriers to culturally responsive teaching. If I do not pass, my only feedback is a numeric score. I will not receive any written feedback on improving, which goes against all I have learned on giving meaningful feedback to students. The edTPA costs \$300, and if I fail, even by one point, I must resubmit and pay \$300 again.

Washington state introducing legislation to drastically scale back the importance the edTPA plays in licensing teachers. Georgia, New York, and Illinois have eliminated or suspended the edTPA requirement for teachers, and student teachers rejoiced everywhere.

I included a few links below to support my testimony.

<https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/researchers-stop-using-edtpa-scores-in-teacher-certification-decisions/2019/12>

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/is-edtpa-standing-in-the-way-of-getting-more-teachers-into-classrooms/572969/>

Thank you again for taking the time to read my testimony today.

Regards,
Christy Lowry
-Corban University non-traditional student