



February 22, 2023

RE: Support of HB 2609

Linfield University supports HB 2609 changing the operative date from January 1, 2026, to effective date of Act, for law removing authority of Teacher Standards and Practices Commission from establishing and collecting fees from educator preparation providers based on the number of license applications received by commission. Our concerns regarding broader implication to EPPs in the state have been expressed clearly in the public comments and communications from OACTE. However, we want to provide an additional example of the impact of proposed fees.

At Linfield University, we typically graduate around 15-25 program completers a year. Although our department is small, we offer 19 programs. Based on the fee schedule TSPC proposed in rulemaking, Linfield's Educator Preparation Program's fee will be \$10,000 which is 22% of our annual budget.

If this added cost was passed along to our teacher candidates, each student would be paying approximately **\$500.00** in fees. This is in addition to the costs they are already paying:

Sample of Licensure Related Fees

Student Fees Related to Licensure for a Student in our Dual Endorsement SPED Program:

Fingerprinting: \$91

NES Multiple Subjects Subtest 1: \$50

NES Multiple Subjects Subtest 2: \$50

NES Special Education: \$95

edTPA: \$300

License application: \$197

In this example, the student pays \$783 in licensure fees (not even considering other university fees). Passing on this additional EPP program fee to our students would bring their cost up to **\$1283.00**.

Alternatively, if this cost was absorbed by the institution, we would potentially need to cut programs that yield 4 or less graduates per year. However, that would most likely include math and sciences, which are high need areas in Oregon.

If Linfield and other Oregon EPPs can sustain with this added cost from SB 129, it will most certainly create a larger barrier to licensure for teachers, or a reduction of teacher licensure programs... all ultimately at the expense of Oregon's teachers and students. At the very least, we ask for the authority of SB 129 to be ended two years early so our EPP can plan for the future.

Sincerely,

Carrie Kondor

Carrie Kondor, Ed.D*

Director of Education

Linfield University

*This public comment does not come from my position as a commissioner. I am speaking on my own behalf as a member of the public and representative of the Linfield Education Department.