

Submitter: Holly Cummins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB717

My name is Holly Cummins,
I am currently in my 4th year of teaching elementary. I went to the University of Oregon, and I received a BA in Educational Foundations and an M.ed in Curriculum and Instruction. In my last year of teaching, I was required to student teach. I was told that I needed to quit my job so I could focus solely on teaching and academics. The hours that were required of me in order to graduate on top of submitting my EDTPA would absolutely make it impossible for me to still keep my job. My source of income was cut off and I struggled financially. Despite taking out a loan, I still struggled to pay for groceries, I worried about paying my rent (even with a roommate), and buying the basic necessities I needed I order fulfillment my teaching hours. I care about students and I want to be the best teacher I can be. Students in teaching programs should not have to quit their job in order to fulfill requirements. A lot younger people opt not to do teaching programs because they know they will not be paid and will be forced to take out loans that puts them in debt. If we want highly qualified teachers in our classrooms for our future, we need to reduce the financial load off student teachers so they can focus on building readers, mathematicians and our future workers contributing to our society.