



The Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
<http://www.acteohio.org/>

May 17, 2017

Dear Ohio Representatives and Senators:

As the chair of the Advocacy Committee and president of the Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, a state affiliate of the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, we wish to add our voice to the state P-16 Council in voicing our **support for the Ohio Resident Educator Program (REP). We oppose the proposed elimination of this program as embedded in the budget bill passed by the House and call upon you to remove the amendment eliminating the REP.**

As representatives of teacher preparation programs, we know that assessment data show how our programs prepare graduates with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to serve as effective *beginning* teachers. However, research on teacher learning strongly supports the theory that learning to teach occurs in predictable stages throughout a teacher's career. Induction support and continuing professional development are essential for good beginning teachers to evolve into master teachers (Alliance for Excellent Education, 2014; Darling-Hammond, 2013; Feiman-Nemser, 2012).

In 2002, the General Assembly wisely voted to create the REP so that all new Ohio teachers in their first four years would receive needed mentoring and support. The REP addresses the critical issue of maintaining quality teachers, especially in the face of high teacher attrition. Nationally, approximately 25 percent of teachers leave within the first three years and nearly one in ten left the profession last year with one major reason cited as lack of support (Hobby, 2016). The REP culminates in a Resident Educator Summative Assessment (RESA) that assesses teachers' abilities in the essential tasks of teaching: planning, teaching, and assessing student learning. The REP is an *effective induction program* that provides new teachers with the support and instructional guidance needed to be an effective educator (DeAngelis, Wall, & Che, 2013), improves retention, especially in urban and rural areas (Rogers, 2014 and Simon, & Johnson, 2015), and improves K-12 student achievement (Fletcher, Strong, & Villar, 2008; Rockoff, 2008).

We acknowledge that the REP and RESA can be improved to fit more seamlessly into new teachers' responsibilities, including the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System. Recently, the Ohio Department of Education sought input from teachers, mentors, and administrators for ways to improve RESA. As a result of this input, modifications are planned for next year. **We believe the state should allow the Ohio Educator Standards Board to revise the REP and RESA, with ODE and stakeholder input, rather than eliminate the program through legislation.**

As teacher educators working to provide Ohio with the highest quality teachers, we know the importance of continued support for our graduates to ensure that they remain in teaching and that they continue to develop their teaching skills over the course of their career. Please do not eliminate the program charged with providing this support through the induction years.

If you have any questions or wish to speak with our association, please feel free to contact Brian at b.yusko@csuohio.edu or 216-875-9774.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian P. Yusko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Brian P. Yusko, Ph.D.
Chair, Advocacy Committee

Mary Murray
President
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