



The Ohio Confederation of Teacher Education Organizations

Conference Committee on HB 166

Representative Scott Oelslager, Chair
Senator Matt Dolan, Vice Chair

Senator Dave Burke
Senator Sean O'Brien
Representative Jim Butler
Representative Jack Cera

Dear Senators and Representatives of the Conference Committee on HB 166:

The Ohio Confederation of Teacher Education Organizations (OCTEO) and our member organizations are dedicated to the preparation of high-quality teachers for Ohio's schools. There are three proposed changes to ORC in HB 166 that, if left unchanged, will have a negative impact on the teaching profession and Ohio's children. We sincerely request consideration of following changes in your reconciliation process.

First, please remove modifications to ORC 3319.26. The proposed revisions to this section would support the growth of "for-profit" teacher preparation programs. These programs provide fast-track teacher preparation overseen by out of state vendors who do not have the necessary infrastructure to support high-quality alternative teacher preparation. Adding these programs in the state will not fulfill the promise of high-quality teachers in Ohio's schools. Ohio-based universities are already in conversation with the Ohio Department of Higher Education to meet the needs of Ohio's schools through traditional or alternative means.

Second, please reverse the repeal of ORC section 3319.074 which defines "properly licensed and certified" teachers. This section of ORC and the rules that stipulation conditions under which districts should hire "properly licensed and certified" teachers acknowledges the importance of having teachers in classrooms who have the pedagogical preparation, subject matter knowledge, and clinical experience necessary to serve effectively as a teacher.

Third, please restore funding for the Joint Education Oversight Committee (JEOC). We only recently learned that this committee was slated for removal. Our organizations have been working closely in partnership with JEOC to learn about legislative priorities, and we have plans in place to establish research partnerships between JEOC and faculty in our institutions. We feel that JEOC is an ideal mechanism to ensure that we promote research that is directly relevant to the questions and issues under consideration by the legislature.

We hope that you will review our concerns and make these revisions in the final version of HB 166.

Sincerely,

Brian Yusko
Chair, Ohio Confederation of Teacher Education Organizations

Jim Wightman
President, Ohio Association of Teacher Educators
President, Ohio Association of Private Colleges of Teacher Education

Julie McIntosh
President, Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Joseph Keferl
Chair, State University Education Deans

Dianna Greivenkamp
Co-President, Ohio Field Directors Forum

Anne Price
Co-President, Ohio Field Directors Forum