

March 22, 2023

To: Senate Education Committee

Re: Written Testimony Submitted ON Senate Bill 9

Honorable Chairman Creighton and Members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Kailey Tate. I am currently a 6th grade English Language Arts teacher at Wilson and Young Middle School in Odessa - the same school where I spent all of last year as a teacher resident thanks to a partnership between the University of Texas Permian Basin and Ector County ISD.

My paid, yearlong residency prepared me with the tools to be a successful first year teacher and career educator. I gained practical strategies to use in my classroom and earned a financial stipend to support myself while completing my degree. Under the supervision and guidance of Karen Vicory, a highly qualified mentor, I got to learn while having the safety net to make mistakes without damaging students' academic experience. I benefited from a year's worth of hands-on experience while receiving quality feedback and developing confidence in my own teaching. For example, I was really nervous about classroom management going into my residency. Because of the support I had and the techniques I picked up, I didn't feel like a first-year teacher going into my first year as a teacher of record. I felt like a veteran.

As a teacher resident, I engaged in lesson planning and small group interventions while holding students to high academic expectations and learning how to assess data and adjust instruction. Towards the end of my residency year, my principal pulled me into his office and told me, "We really want you here next year. We just want to know your plans." As soon as he said that, I was jumping for joy because I had fallen in love with the campus environment and the people. Having experienced the life of a teacher throughout an entire school year, I got to see behind the scenes and build relationships with my future students, families, and co-workers.

Across the country, state leaders are looking to solve teacher vacancies. Teacher residency pathways like mine should be a key part of Texas' long-term solution. Because these residencies demand active partnership with preparation programs, schools are invested in residents who they've observed, coached and developed to fit their needs for a full year, rather than the traditional semester of student teaching - or even less clinical experience required through other certification routes. In turn, we are better prepared to succeed in our grade and subject, more likely to stay in the classroom longer, and - most importantly - deliver better instruction to our students for years to come.

On behalf of teacher residents and future Texas educators, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. As you consider Senate Bill 9, I urge you to support the Teacher Residency Partnership program and allotment.

Sincerely,

Kailey Tate

6th Grade Teacher, Ector County ISD

Teacher Residency Completer, UT Permian Basin