



University of Dayton

June 2, 2020

Ohio House of Representatives
State & Local Government Committee
77 South High Street – 13th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Chairman Wiggam and Ranking Member Kelly:

As the Interim Dean of the University of Dayton's School of Education & Health Sciences, I write in support of **House Bill 673**. The bill represents an important step toward ensuring that Ohio colleges provide students in the study of education a safe return to campus, as well as opportunities to pursue their education in an effective and timely manner. Our education students are critical to the short- and long-term viability of Ohio's workforce.

House Bill 673 provides clarity and avoids penalizing students for forces beyond their control. Given the COVID-19 pandemic departure of students from campus in March, our teacher preparation students were unable to complete their field experiences in the traditional manner. We appreciate the flexibility and support of the Department of Education in addressing the related issues quickly. As of now, without any type of waiver from ODE/ODHE or the legislature, our students in the fall will not be able to meet current requirements including the edTPA. By codifying flexibility to be eligible for a teaching license or endorsement, you are providing certainty in this uncertain environment.

While we will do everything we can to prepare for our coming academic year, we know that there are many unknowns about how the pandemic will progress this fall. I am pleased to express support for the bill's wisdom in providing latitude to universities to provide creative options for students to meet their classroom-based education. Examples of such strategies and approaches that will be provided to students are cited below:

- Students will complete lesson planning as part of partnership with Junior League of Dayton. If they are able, they will visit the YWCA to work with the Junior League volunteers and students they will be teaching, but can complete the same activities through virtual zoom meetings.
- All methods courses will be assigned to traditional classroom settings in order to work with teachers to complete course requirements. If schools are working remotely, then students will need to complete assignments remotely as well. If schools consider the time as part of the teachers' contracts, then we are considering that time as part of the students' course/hour requirements.
- Graduate students who are completing student teaching in the fall will also be placed in typical settings. They will complete work virtually as teachers will most likely do in the fall. They will still be required to complete lesson planning, teaching, grading and other activities.

Thank you once again for the support, direction, and willingness to include a range of voices as the citizens of Ohio work to find our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically we are grateful that our colleges and universities can continue their important work of educating our next generation of teachers, as well as a range of other critical professions. If I can be of further assistance with regard to **HB673**, please contact me at cdaprano1@udayton.edu.

Sincerely,

Corinne M. Daprano, Ph.D., Interim Dean
School of Education and Health Sciences