

Testimony of

Anastasia Dzikas

Plainville Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

HB 5286: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PRESERVICE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

March 4, 2022

Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

Although I didn't have to submit my edTPA because it was during the pilot year, I found it to be an excessive amount of busy work. It took away from my focus on student teaching from my heart. Because teaching with curriculum in place to fidelity is in place, I used Lucy Calkins Readers Workshop lessons for my edTPA lessons. It felt like cheating, but hey, that's exactly what I was supposed to teach the students. I spent countless hours working on the 75 page paper that I have not even looked back at since completing it. It was an absolute waste of time and did not better me as a new teacher.

Thank you for addressing these critical issues impacting our students, our educators, and our school communities.

Testimony of

Carly Williams

Simsbury Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

HB 5286: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PRESERVICE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.

March 4, 2022

Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

EdTPA is another way of busy work for brand new teachers. If the education system is lacking teachers, why are we putting them through this unnecessary stress of paper work. I asked many teachers for help when I was doing edtpa and it was confusing for veteran teachers. It also does not correlate with the reality of teaching and our day to day tasks and lesson planning.

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Testimony of

Christy Dzubay

Winsted Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

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ASSESSMENT FOR TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS.**

March 4, 2022

Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

I completed edTPA the year prior to when it became an official state requirement. My cohort's requirements were to determine cutoff scores for CT. I firmly believe that edTPA did little to further my preparation for being an educator. The video requirements are almost impossible; the amount of consecutive time to show so many different aspects of teaching takes away the heart of what teaching is. The reflections were not anything that helped me to think back about my teaching. In my opinion, there is nothing valuable in edTPA in order to determine a candidate's level of preparation for being in the classroom. Feedback that I received during student teaching from my cooperating teacher and from my supervisor was the heart of my growth as a pre-service teacher. I urge you to remove this requirement from an already rigorous certification process.

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Testimony of

Eva-Maria Maher

Uncasville Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

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March 4, 2022

I was certified the year before edTPA was required, but was asked by my university to do a “trial run” of edTPA. I believe the idea behind edTPA has merit (asking teachers to focus in on a select few lessons and be really reflective on how they build on each other and how their teaching practice could improve), but I find the execution to be a huge waste of time and energy for all parties. Teachers by nature CONSTANTLY reflect on their practice and think about what could be done better, and both teachers who are in teacher-prep and early career teachers have mentors who constantly check in with them and reflect on their work. EdTPA just poses yet another barrier to teaching, when we are already desperate for teachers to begin with. We also already have TEAM in place, so why make early career educators do essentially the same work twice?

Testimony of

Heather Courey

Norwich Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

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Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

edTPA is a scam. I failed it by one point, fought the one point and they took another point away. This "test" made me want to quit attempting to become a teacher, I would tell myself that it just wasn't worth it. you work your butt off, all for the company to say sorry, try again. It is simply a waste. It doesn't prove whether or not I can teach my students, it just proves that it can effect someone's mental health, and potentially ruin careers

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Testimony of

Jason Zevallos

Tolland Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

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I believe that edTPA is not an effective tool to be used to prepare coming into the teaching profession. It is strenuous, time consuming, and worrisome on whether you pass criteria or fail criteria. It does not define any one person as an educator to complete this task during their student teaching practicum. I was fortunate enough to complete tasks 1 & 3 of edTPA for my student teaching practicum and yet things that had to be completed were not valid enough mainly due to the pandemic. Most importantly edTPA does not define anyone as an educator; you build knowledge from mentors and coursework to better you as an educator and taking one thing off a soon to be educators plate is needed. Nevertheless on top of being an educator are required/mandated state testings to enter the field which is time consuming and exhausting. Elimination of edTPA will in fact be a positive to all future educators out there.

Testimony of

Julia Tackett

Deep River Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

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Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

I completed EDtpa in the spring of 2018 which was the first year, but a test year so my scores didn't technically count. I spent countless hours in the library writing and rewriting the same things because the required pieces of EDtpa were so incredibly repetitive. The many lesson plans I had to write were in depth unnecessarily and I have never had to write a lesson plan like that ever since. Some of the questions did not even feel necessary to answer based on previous questions. It felt like most of it was not useful for me as a soon to be new teacher. The portfolio I completed for my college separate from EDtpa provided me with more thought provoking questions and prompts. My EDtpa portfolio just created so much additional work that seemed repetitive and pointless, making it feel even less useful in the larger scheme of my teaching career. I feel for teachers who are given EDtpa scores that then prevent them from teaching because it is not an accurate or realistic portfolio for what they are capable of. This portfolio needs to be replaced with an actual portfolio that includes lesson plans that are realistic, a teaching philosophy, resume, and student samples. Additionally, recording lessons specially for EDtpa created the added burden of watching and rewatching hours of teaching footage to simply find a 3 minute clip that related to the topic you were writing about.

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Testimony of

Justin Farrell

Simsbury Educator

Before the

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I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

edTPA is a fluff project that many states make their student teachers do. It is barbaric to expect our student teachers to complete this while they are trying to grow. Many states have wonderful beginner teacher protocols. This extra exam is not needed, and sometimes it's used by institutions to drag down their students who have issues learning.

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Testimony of

Kiley O'Brien

Trumbull Educator

Before the

Education Committee

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Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

Edtpa is a complete waste of time. Simply put, you are repeating yourself over and over. They ask the same questions using different words. You have to follow the samples format or you fail. It was a complete waste of time and effort as well as added so much unnecessary stress to my life. I have never and will never apply anything that was in Edtpa into the classroom.

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Testimony of

Olivia Bosson

Groton Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

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Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

I am currently a DSAP candidate completing edTPA. To begin, the cost of \$300 just puts up another paywall (Among many in the CT certification process) that prevents strong teachers from being able to pursue the profession. This is felt especially strong by adults returning to school for their certification who are student teaching and already are working for free. The actual edTPA portfolio is also problematic. I think that it can be simplified to a more manageable level. We, meaning DSAP candidates and student teachers, are already doing a lot of work creating materials and lesson plans from scratch, meeting with our advisors and cooperating teachers, attending professional development, etc. Spending all the extra time explaining your rationale, deciding which classes to film, and researching are simply busy work. We are already designing these units. It would be far simpler to provide student teachers with a template for a unit with some of the key components of edTPA, and then 3-5 pages of commentary. The way edTPA is currently does not show how we connect with students or our knowledge of the subject, but rather how good we are at creating and argument to show our lessons fit the mold.

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Testimony of

Rachel Wrinn

Southington Educator

Before the

Education Committee

Re:

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Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

I completed Ed TPA during my student teaching. It was extremely overwhelming. I wasn't able to focus on my classroom, because I had to focus on edTPA. It took a lot of time and did not make me a better teacher. I then completed team in my first two years of teaching, which was the exact same thing as EdTPA. It does not prove that anybody is a good educator. It just proves that somebody can write a paper.

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Testimony of

Sarah Wiederecht

Before the

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Re:

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Good morning, Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 5286 and the elimination of the statewide implementation of the preservice performance assessment, edTPA.

I completed edTPA in 2018, during my student teaching and graduate year of college. I am currently a social studies teacher and in reflecting on the experience with the program, it did little to help support my growth as an educator and provides little as a current educator. The time commitment, on top of graduate school, working to afford costs of living, and balancing student teaching with learning my best practices for my future career, was unnecessary and took away from beneficial pedagogical exercises and tasks. My cohort and I spent hours, and a handful of overnight sessions, putting together a portfolio that did little for us and felt more another example of disconnect between expectations and realities of public education. Further, privacy concerns of students being recording is a real concern that parents and students alike brought up. I also had to pay, out of pocket, the entire fee (I believe \$300) which is inequitable, unreasonable, and unattainable for a college student who was completely independent and already struggling to get by like myself.

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Testimony of

Skye Shogren

Storrs Manfld Educator

Before the

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Re:

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EdTPA was more or less fake. It's a poor measure of practical / successful teaching at its core. If you want to assure surface level (checking of the boxes) teaching, edTPA will continue to reinforce that on a large scale. I don't have a better solution, however I do know that edTPA is a waste of time, energy, money, and does not properly assess effective long term teaching.