

House Education

03/13/2024 Upon Adjournment

HB24-1290 Student Educator Stipend Program

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Lisa Altemueller For themselves	I work with teacher candidates and can share these stipends have made a huge difference in the lives of candidates who are completing student teaching/residency. I have heard teacher candidates state they would not have been able to finish their licensure program if they had not received the stipend. Many are candidates from populations that are historically underrepresented in the teaching profession and have experienced generational poverty. The stipends will make a positive difference in changing this historical pattern of poverty and in changing the demographics of Colorado's teaching work force. Continuing to fund the stipends is a much needed investment in Colorado Schools!
Paige Frank For themselves	My name is Paige and I am currently enrolled in the Educator Program at MSU Denver. In the spring of 2025, I will be beginning my residency/student teaching for both the spring and fall semesters. Due to my residency and class schedule, I will be unable to work full-time during that time. Without this stipend, I will be unable to finish my degree and licensure. I live by myself and am responsible for 100% of my bills and expenses, so if this stipend is not an option, my choice is to withdraw from classes, or risk losing my housing, food, medications, and other necessities. This stipend affects the future of aspiring educators, but also our students around the state. Please consider continuing the stipend so we can continue to get quality educators in our schools.
arbay mohamed For themselves	This support is needed for students as these requirements usually take up the time when students are working. They should be supported financial as college is already a luxury expense that people cannot afford.
Corey Sell For themselves	I am a professor of elementary education and chair of the elementary education and literacy department at MSU Denver. The stipend has had a huge impact on supporting students in the elementary education program. First, I hear from multiple students each semester

	<p>that without the stipend they would have had to drop out of the program or switch to the non-licensure pathway that doesn't include a year-long clinical experience--meaning they can not earn a K-6 teaching license. Second, the stipend does support many of our diverse teacher candidates in completing the clinical work needed to earn their K-6 license. Therefore, the stipend directly impacts the diversity of our teacher candidates who graduate with a K-6 license meaning the teaching field becomes for diverse. Third, the stipend provides those teacher candidates who receive it the opportunity to focus on their clinical work and not have to work extra jobs in order to live. For example, before the stipend at least 25% of the yearlong residents didn't work (survey of both those that got it and didn't get it). After the stipend we have about 53% of the residents stating they do not work in an annual survey. This means more residents have shifted to not working and this provides more time to focus on their yearlong clinical work which is at least 4 days out of the week (so acts as a full-time job). Anecdotally, teacher residents have been able to provide for their family responsibilities, pay for groceries, and overall be in a more stable financial situation, which we know positively influences their academic efforts towards becoming a teacher.</p>
<p>Karen Percival For themselves</p>	<p>Colorado has a shortage of teachers and a high cost of living. We need to support our student teachers so that they can complete their student teaching without going further into debt/ having to work another full time job because they aren't getting paid when they are student teaching.</p>
<p>Richard Percival For themselves</p>	<p>Get student teachers paid. My daughter is a teacher and I own a business. She works hard and is entitled to a fair wage. Thanks.</p>
<p>Brian Gunther For themselves</p>	<p>I am strongly in support of this bill. As a person who has helped this funding reach hundreds of future teachers, I have seen first-hand the massive impact it has on these students fulfilling their goals of becoming the teachers our communities so desperately need. These funds have truly been life-changing for many students, and many future teachers in the pipeline are encouraged by the possibility of earning these funds once they reach the culminating experience of their teacher licensure program. Please prioritize this funding - it is having a significant positive impact on the future of public education in Colorado!</p>
<p>Andrea Barber</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern-</p>

<p>For Metropolitan State University of Denver</p>	<p>I am writing in strong favor of continuing Student Educator Stipend Program. I, Andrea Barber, currently serve in the Office of Clinical Experiences and Partnerships Coordinator with the School of Education at MSU Denver. An essential part of my role is supporting teacher candidates in their final journey towards teacher licensure. Many of our teacher candidates would be not be able to afford to student teach or enroll in a one year residency due to the financial burdens. As a commuter campus, we serve a diverse group of students- many whom are are in need of additional financial aid in order support themselves and their families. This is why the stipend is essential for our students to not only survive but thrive in their final semesters as teacher candidates to better serve our PK-12 students.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration,</p> <p>Andrea Barber OCEP Coordinator School of Education MSU Denver</p>
<p>Eric Sadler For themselves</p>	<p>I am currently an educator with 26 years of experience. When asked to look back at my year of student teaching, I recalled the financial challenge created by following my calling. I was fortunate to have had the savings to take a 5 month leave from my work as a Mental Health Worker at Children's Hospital in downtown Denver. I will admit the experience gained was worth the sacrifice and stress, but with our country's current need for new teachers, I think it is high time to provide a stipend for Student Educators. Each Student Educator is expected to develop their craft by making classroom observations and reflections as they observe the Mentor Teacher improve their students' lives. The Mentor Teacher's responsibilities slowly pass to the Student Educator at such a high level of expectation that part-time work interferes with an individual's ability to give the time and attention needed to provide the actual students with the quality of effort and focus those students have the right to receive. I recall the time spent preparing lessons, meeting with coworkers, attending Parent-Teacher conferences, supporting after-school events AND grading papers at home. I was overwhelming at times, but made a difference in those students' lives. I have been fortunate continue to enjoy my calling, but I also believe Student Educators should be compensated just as an intern or apprentice is</p>

	<p>compensated. If you want the best and brightest to help our children become better and brighter, it is time to demonstrate your support.</p> <p>I call on your committee to see those new teachers as our legacy to improve the education students receive in Colorado and support House Education HB24-1290.</p> <p>Eric Sadler</p>
<p>Jessica Sadler Percival For themselves</p>	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I am a Junior at MSU Denver aspiring to be an elementary education teacher. I've always had a passion for education and educating children, as I have only coached gymnastics to children since I was 14/15 years old. Of course, the pay is not the reason we educate, we do it for so many reasons but being a part of the growth and having the opportunity to benefit our future generations is such a blessing. I was unaware that student teachers are currently not paid, and quite frankly I was shocked. How can one expect a future teacher to spend the day working for free, managing life, and still find a way to pay for college, rent, and daily necessities? Of course, it's possible because countless teachers have done it before us, but that doesn't mean we should have to now. In my own courses I am taking we learn the importance of creating a positive and supportive environment for not only the students but also the teachers, and student teachers deserve a stipend for their time, effort, knowledge, and longevity. Personally, if this does not pass I'm not sure how I'll be able to work as a student teacher, work another job, and still have time in the day for the things that are important to me. I hope this statement along with others will provide enough motivation to create a better life and future for student teachers as teachers have done for everyone in the community. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and I hope you can change the lives of thousands of inspiring teachers.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jessica Sadler Percival</p>



March 2024

To: House Education Committee
Re: HB24-1290— Student Educator Stipend Program

Dear House Education Committee Members:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. More than 700 community leaders are AAUW members in local branches around Colorado.

AAUW recognizes that women make up a substantial percentage of Colorado's teachers, and we are grateful that many young women still want to pursue this profession in spite of the below-market pay that still persists in most school districts. The student educator stipend, established in 2022 with federal funding, must continue if we are to attract the best and brightest new teachers. The student educator stipend program has proven to be a critical element in meeting state academic standards and class size reduction goals.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB24-1290 and requests your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Su Ryden".

Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

16699 E. Kentucky Ave.
Aurora, CO 80017
303.898.5797
su@ryden.com

American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Fw: Written Testimony-HB24-1290

LCS GA to Katie Ruedebusch

03/12/2024 05:06 PM

Sent by **Cathy Eslinger**

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Katie-

Let me know if you prefer that I forward this to a different email as well.

Thanks!

Cathy

----- Forwarded by Cathy Eslinger/CLICS on 03/12/2024 05:05 PM -----

From: "Julie Eber" <jewelslynn@gmail.com>
To: lcs.ga@coleg.gov
Date: 03/12/2024 05:03 PM
Subject: Written Testimony-HB24-1290

Hello,

I am writing this testimony to show my support for HB24-1290. I work side by side with MSU Residents on a daily basis. I get to know my students very well academically and personally; their financial struggles bleed over into their academic life and goals they have for their future. When students learned of the support they could receive while completing their Residency, they were elated and extremely relieved. Every one of them has told me there was no possible way they could have finished the program without this financial support.

Some of my students did not receive this help and I could see the stress it caused. Working while trying to focus on learning to be a teacher is a huge challenge.

It saddens me to think about this assistance not being available in the years to come. Teachers already don't get paid well enough and having them start in an area of deficit does not promote the career. Each week I am meeting with students to help them manage their stress and if this source of income is taken away, there will be even more for them to balance when the focus should be on learning.

I would highly encourage you to continue this financial support to our pre-service teachers.

Julie Eber

MSU Denver Residency Site Coordinator

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Live, Laugh, Love