



HB 1304
Senate Education Committee
March 7, 2023

Good morning, Chairman Elkin, and members of the Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin, and I am the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB). I represent the ESPB board who met on January 17, 2023, and I testify in favor of HB 1304. Lines 5-12 on page 2 of the bill propose an avenue to becoming a qualified special education teacher in an innovative manner while still requiring the content knowledge, a content test, as well as the experience in the field (student teaching) necessary to teach our most vulnerable students. The idea of this bill began several years ago with a diverse stakeholder group looking to assist the shortage without lessening the qualifications. The result is before you and multiple parameters are in place to do what is best for students, an ESPB non-negotiable. The guidelines before you require more content knowledge than some current ESPB pathways to becoming a provisionally licensed special education teacher. In addition, ESPB will draft administrative rules to govern the parameters of this type of permit. The administrative rules will require individuals to have a mentor and to make progress in their additional coursework-namely their general studies which lead to a bachelor's degree. The ESPB Board supports this pathway to becoming a special education teacher and its potential to lessen a critical shortage area with clear guidelines for permit holder's qualifications. This concludes my testimony, and I will answer any questions.

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