

Dear Senator McCrory, Representative Sanchez, and members of the Education Committee:

My name is John Guzauckas and I am a Master's student at the University of Connecticut Neag School of Education, pursuing my M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction. I plan to become a Secondary Mathematics and Computer Science teacher next fall.

**I am writing to you in favor of SB 1035, An Act Concerning the The Development of a New Preservice Performance Assessment for Teacher Preparation Programs.**

I worked on edTPA during my student teaching experience in Spring 2020, but did not submit the assessment due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During my student teaching, edTPA shifted a significant portion of my attention away from my students and towards fulfilling requirements for the assessment. I felt that my time in the classroom as a student teacher was detrimentally impacted by the fact that I had to focus on this assessment while also showing up as a teacher, completing coursework, and reflecting through my own university requirements. While edTPA has a lot of focus on personal and professional growth, I felt that my experience with the assessment limited my development to just a couple of areas that the assessment focused on, rather than a more beneficial, holistic improvement in my teaching skills. The time required outside of the classroom for me to complete the components of edTPA made it very difficult to effectively prepare quality lessons for my students on a daily basis.

I urge you to eliminate the use of edTPA in the state of Connecticut. I feel that using edTPA limits the growth and learning potential for teacher candidates in their student teaching experience. Additionally, the cost, time commitment, and score requirements create more barriers to becoming a teacher. Finally, the edTPA negatively affected the experience of the students in my classroom through its effect on the quality of my teaching.

Again, I urge you to eliminate the use of edTPA in Connecticut.

Regards,

John Guzauckas  
University of Connecticut | Neag School of Education  
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