

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Higher Education
For HB 4363

Compiled on: Monday, April 10, 2023 1:20 PM

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Hearing Date: April 10, 2023 10:00 AM

Cindy Fountain, Ms
Self, Retail Merchandiser
Cleburne, TX

I support this bill. The Texas teacher workforce needs to be supported, and new teachers are needed. It's very fair and will help students and our education system to help fund those who want to enter this deeply important profession. Thank you.

Allison Craig
self, college professor
Fort Worth, TX

Please support HB 4363. We must increase financial incentives for strong undergraduate students to pursue careers in education in Texas.

Joanna Warren, Deputy Director, Public Education Policy

Educate Texas

Austin, TX

Educate Texas thanks you for the opportunity to submit public comment for HB 4363. Teachers are the most important in-school factor affecting student growth, and we believe that all students deserve access to an effective and well-prepared teacher. HB 4363 offers financial support for teacher candidates pursuing rigorous and relevant preparation routes that we believe will enhance our chances of attracting talent into the profession.

The proposed Future Texas Teachers Scholarship program incentivizes candidates to pursue programs that provide field-based and clinical teaching experiences. In-classroom training models, such as teacher residencies, foster candidates who are more prepared to enter a classroom as the teacher of record and are more likely to stay in the classroom longer compared to other preparation routes.

HB 4363 builds off the recommendations of the Teacher Vacancy Task Force by providing incentives and support for hard-to-staff areas, a challenge pre-dating but exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 4363 financially incentivizes candidates to enter teaching positions in public schools with majority educationally disadvantaged populations, and in fields experiencing critical shortages, such as special education and bilingual education .

Almost 30% of newly hired teachers in the 2022-23 school year had no Texas certification or permit. Texas needs to attract and retain talented teachers to ensure the best academic outcomes for our students. We believe HB 4363 will help cultivate a highly effective teacher workforce by attracting talent into rigorous preparation routes and will help ensure all Texas students are equipped for lifelong academic and career success. We appreciate your consideration as HB 4363 is discussed by the Legislature.