

Testimony on SB 5801 - Concerning teachers' postretirement employment options

2/20/19 3:30 p.m., Sen Ways & Means, JACB SHR 4

Good afternoon Chair Rolfes and committee, I am Nancy Chamberlain, representing Washington State PTA, the oldest and largest child advocacy organization in the state, with over 130,000 members statewide.

Our members made “strategies to address the teacher shortage” one of our top 5 legislative priorities.

We need to support new teachers during their training and early careers. The attrition rate for new teachers is over 20%. Supplying new teachers with a mentor is an evidence-based strategy to improve retention rates.

We strongly support allowing retired teachers to be rehired as mentors for students in teacher prep programs, as included in the bill.

We would respectfully ask that the language be expanded to include the ability for rehired teachers to serve as mentors for teachers in their first 5 years of teaching.

SB 5801 is a limited but strategic approach to addressing the teacher shortage. We ask you to move it forward with the proposed amendment. Thank you.