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OEA Legislative Watch

An OEA Newsletter

Do you know that the political process affects virtually everything in your school day?

Take action — Become an OEA Member Lobbyist!

Questions?

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<u>Under Senate Bill 21 Teacher Qualification Would Only Apply to</u> Third Grade Teachers

This week, the Ohio House Education Committee heard sponsor testimony from Senator Lehner regarding Senate Bill 21. This legislation seeks to make changes to the teacher qualification requirements required for teachers of students on a reading improvement plan under the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

During her testimony, Senator Lehner stated that it was never the intent of the original Third Grade Reading Guarantee legislation to apply the teacher qualifications to teachers in grades K-2. However, the language was written in a manner, and interpreted by state education officials, that it would apply to teachers in grades K-3. Therefore, in its current version, Senate Bill 21, would correct this issue and only apply the teacher qualifications to teachers in grade 3.

OEA supports this change and other changes to current law, which OEA views as inflexible and not set up to help schools and teachers to meet the needs of struggling readers. However, OEA would caution members that the bill has to clear further debate and possible changes in the Ohio House. Additionally, it must garner the support of Governor Kasich before it would become law. OEA doesn't anticipate any additional hearings on the bill until legislators return from legislative recess in early April.

OEA Testifies on Budget (HB 59) in Full House Finance and Appropriations Committee

This week, OEA presented testimony on House Bill 59, the state budget bill for Fiscal Years 2014-2015, in the House Finance and

Appropriations Committee. This afforded OEA the opportunity to outline our positions on various issues to legislators who are not on the subcommittees focusing on education. You may view a copy of the testimony by <u>clicking here</u> .
OEA anticipates the House Finance and Appropriations Committee will accept a substitute bill during the week of April 8. <i>Please remember that your involvement in the budget process is critically important. Please take action and write your legislators by following this link:</i> http://capwiz.com/nea/oh/home/