



February 11, 2026

Senator Jimmy Higdon
702 Capital Ave
Room 305
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Senator Higdon,

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence is writing in support of Senate Bill 22 as amended with SFA 2. We commend your leadership in bringing forward innovative legislation to address Kentucky's critical teacher shortage through the creation of a dual credit registered teacher apprenticeship program. This bill represents a promising approach to developing our homegrown educator workforce while removing financial barriers for students considering the teaching profession.

Kentucky faces an urgent teacher workforce crisis that directly impacts student learning and educational opportunity. SB 22 addresses this challenge through a 'grow your own' strategy that engages students early in the teaching profession, starting as early as high school. By allowing eligible students to earn up to 20 dual credit courses through a registered teacher apprenticeship program, this bill removes a significant barrier to entry – cost - and provides structured exposure to the education profession. Students who complete the program can transition directly into teacher education and employment within their home school districts, creating a direct pipeline to fill critical teacher vacancies. This approach, coupled with the requirement that districts commit to offering full-time teaching positions to program completers, signals a genuine commitment to building our teaching workforce.

The amendment adopted, SFA 2, maintains all original provisions of SB 22 while replacing the requirement that students earn a grade of “C” or higher in every dual credit course with a requirement that students “maintain a high school grade point average of 2.75 or higher.” This adjustment preserves high academic expectations while providing students with appropriate flexibility as they balance rigorous dual credit coursework alongside high school requirements.

We particularly value SB 22's potential to increase teacher workforce diversity. By making the pathway to teaching more financially accessible and providing structured support through high school, this bill could open doors for capable students from diverse backgrounds who might otherwise not consider education as a career due to cost or lack of awareness. The apprenticeship model provides students with direct exposure to the profession, mentorship opportunities, and a clear pathway to employment - addressing barriers that have historically limited teacher diversity in our Commonwealth. We encourage legislators to ensure robust implementation support and equitable access across all districts, especially rural and under-resourced communities, so that all Kentucky students have equal opportunity to pursue this pathway.



SB 22 represents an important alignment of K-12 and postsecondary education systems. The requirement for district-postsecondary partnerships ensures that participating institutions and school districts work together in program design, course transferability, and matriculation into teacher education programs. This collaborative approach strengthens our overall education ecosystem. We are encouraged by the bill's expansion of dual credit access as a critical pathway to affordability and early credential attainment.

The Prichard Committee is committed to ensuring that Kentucky removes barriers to educational opportunity and that dual credit functions as a reliable bridge to postsecondary and career success for all students. SB 22 is an important step in addressing our teacher shortage crisis. Paired with meaningful investment in dual credit infrastructure, it can serve as a model for how our state strategically develops its workforce and removes cost barriers to opportunity. We stand ready to work with you and other legislative leaders to make this vision fully achievable.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigitte Blom
President and CEO
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence