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### REPA Reflection

Since REPA has been introduced, controversies and issues have risen about different conditions of the new teaching licensure. During the meeting in Rochester, IN, many individuals spoke out against the new regulations. Not only did teachers speak out during the meeting, but lawyers, representatives and parents expressed their concerns. Not everyone at the meeting spoke against REPA, however. Some people had some things they liked about REPA. I feel that it was very beneficial to attend the meeting because I got to see how many different people are worried about the new regulations.

During the meeting, many individuals chose to speak about REPA. Many people who spoke had the same concerns. The main concerns were the reducing of student teaching hours, how to renew teaching licenses and the maximum education credits a student can take. Individuals felt that these new rules would do more harm than actually help. I agreed with these speakers. I feel that in order to become a successful teacher, one needs experience and the proper classes. Many said that putting a cap on how many pedagogy classes one can take is a ridiculous concept, and I agree. I am also concerned about how I can renew my license. Many people spoke out against taking a test to renew teacher's licenses. One man pointed out that his wife, who is a nurse, only needs to pay fifty dollars to renew her license, whereas teachers will have to take a test. He wondered why a person who deals with life and death situations needs to only pay a fee while a

teacher needed to take a test. I agree that taking a test to renew one's license is a ridiculous concept. These concerns were a prominent part of the meeting.

There were also a few individuals who had good things to say about REPA. One woman stated that she liked the fact that REPA increases support for new teachers and professional development. She stated that new teachers need a support system so that more new teachers stay in the profession. I agree that new teachers need support. This is one of the only positive comments that were said during the meeting. The concerns far outweighed the positive comments that dealt with the new teaching regulations.

Before attending this meeting, I had only read the articles online about REPA. Going to the meeting and experiencing firsthand how REPA would affect many individuals in society helped me better understand how REPA would not only affect teachers but many other individuals as well. It helped me develop professionally by seeing how these things work and how these changes would affect me later on in my career. Going to the meeting also helped me see how the board felt about the concerns. During the meeting, the board people who were supposed to be listening were not very respectful. They would roll their eyes or tap their feet while someone was talking. During the middle of the meeting, two of the board members walked outside to have a press conference. By doing this, they missed many of the speaker's opinions. Many people were furious about these actions. I personally felt that by walking out during the middle of the meeting was rude and uncalled for. By acting this way many people felt that these hearings were just a legal formality and were not being taken seriously.

The meeting in Rochester was a way for professionals to unite as one voice to express their concerns. Many people expressed their fears and worries about the new

regulations, while others tried to find good rules mixed into REPA. Going to this meeting helped me see how these rules affected many different professions. I enjoyed seeing people stand up for what they believed in and fight back against the rude behavior they witnessed. I feel that if enough individuals speak out against what they believe to be wrong, the board members will finally have to stop and listen.