

## WGEE Legislation: Major Points for Testimony

- • Senate 204 states that the professional knowledge base must be embedded in all educator workforce and professional growth initiatives such as teacher evaluation. It creates an obligation for the professionals to acquire the existing research-validated body of knowledge and skill at a level of detail that characterizes comparable professions, i.e. medicine and law.
- • It is essential that legislation proposes a connection between research-validated professional knowledge and the workforce improvement initiatives the Commonwealth is undertaking such as High Expertise Teaching (HET).
- • The legislation emphasizes that there is deep and specific professional knowledge, content and skill in education. This professional knowledge base should be central during the various stages of a teacher's professional training and continued professional development. This bill represents a comprehensive approach to preparing and supporting teachers.
- • The bill emphasizes the complexity of teaching.
- • The bill reflects the necessity of connecting leadership at the school- and district-levels with instruction at the teacher level.
- • It creates the conditions for Institutions of higher education to modify their training programs to align with the professional knowledge base.
  - It also creates the condition for the education departments (Secretariat, DHE, DESE, and DEEC) to coordinate and align their work in support of increasing student achievement for ALL students.
- We know that the number one influence on student learning is effective instruction which this legislation enables. Given the adequacy clause in the MA Constitution, education is the unique responsibility of the Commonwealth and this legislation meets this criterion.