The Honorable:

I am (your job position) and a member of the Georgia Council of Teachers of Mathematics (GCTM). I am writing to express my concern about the elimination of the Hope Teacher Scholarship Loan Program for teachers pursuing graduate degrees to teach mathematics. This program has been a great incentive for the recruitment of teachers seeking initial certification to teach mathematics. I applaud the Georgia General Assembly for passing HB 280 that boosts the salary of new mathematics and science teachers; this is indeed an advantage for newly certified teachers. However, we must first get teachers certified, and I am concerned that eliminating the Hope Teacher Scholarship Loan Program will decrease the number of students who are financially able to enroll in teacher education programs. Many of the teachers enrolled in these programs are making career changes and must quit their jobs to complete these programs. The opportunity to pay college tuition by agreeing to teach in the state of Georgia is a huge incentive.

Please reconsider the allocation of funds through the Hope Teacher Scholarship Loan Program.

Sincerely,