I have been teaching externships full-time since 1991. Based on my experience, I strongly oppose the proposal to allow students to earn both credit and compensation during such an experience. This will dilute the educational focus and benefit of these programs, for what I would hope are obvious reasons related to human nature. Most specifically: I have had to fail students who did not comply with their academic externship requirements because they were overly engaged in the field work. Some of these students have been (supposedly) graduating seniors. And these were unpaid externships of course; if students are paid they become more beholden to the site office, less responsive to the faculty, and it will undermine the educational quality of the programs as well as prejudice students in the ways I describe here.

Sincerely, Lawrence Krieger, Clinical Professor, Florida State University College of Law