

HB2013

Appropriations - Education and Environment Division

March 10, 2023

Chair Nathe and members of the Appropriations Committee, Education and Environment Division,

My name is Jenny Bobo, and I am a current graduate student in the Master of Education program at Minot State University. For the past two summers, I have had the privilege to participate in the Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP), which has greatly improved my writing quality in all modes and has fundamentally shaped my instructional style as a new science teacher. Currently, I am in the midst of writing and conducting research for my capstone study to finish my graduate coursework; without my experiences from NPWP sessions and seminars, I would be floundering to finish this task. I credit the work of Dr. Samuel Stinson, Dr. Daniel Conn, and other NPWP peers with building up my voice and honing my communication skills for this achievement.

The skill of writing bolsters my abilities to excel in my job, my education, and my service to my community. When I began my first summer in NPWP, I had only recently started my graduate program at Minot State and struggled to make connections with academic mentors and peers outside the rigid structure of remote courses. I remember feelings reinvigorated in my love of writing and literature following our first seminar, relishing the quality and sincerity of every contributor who spoke. Ultimately, the quality of my writing improved while working with NPWP because of the respect and joy for writing I found there.

The story of my graduate studies at Minot State University would have been radically different, however, without the funding that awarded me a stipend for enrollment in summer courses and NPWP. For the first four semesters of my graduate studies, I barely made enough money as a part-time animal care professional to scrape together tuition funds. Two of those four semesters were the summer of 2021 and 2022, and for those semesters, I was incredibly grateful to receive partial funding through NPWP. Had partial funding not been available to me for those semesters, as may be the case for future NPWP participants, I would most certainly have chosen to minimize my tuition costs and not take summer courses. I urge you to take my story as representative of future writers and educators of North Dakota and the Northern Plains Writing Project and reconsider funding for NPWP and RRVWP as it is an investment in the future of our state.

Thank you for your consideration. This concludes my testimony with respect to HB2013.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Bobo".

Jenny Bobo

Our Redeemer's Christian School Science Instructor

M. Ed. Candidate, Minot State University