

3/9/23

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislative Committee,

My name is Ahna Fixen and I live in the Lake Region of Devils Lake, ND. I am an educator and a trained ND Teacher Support System (NDTSS) mentor working in the Devils Lake Public School District. I am testifying in support of the NDTSS Mentoring Program SB 2013.

I have been an educator in North Dakota for thirty-one years and a trained NDTSS mentor for ten years. I have mentored several teachers, but have had the privilege of mentoring fifteen teachers through the NDTSS and have witnessed the benefits of this program. The NDTSS supports and provides new teachers and mentors with valuable professional development to retain teachers in the state of ND. Out of the fifteen teachers whom I have mentored through the NDTSS, 93% are still teaching, 73% are teaching in ND and 60% remain teaching in the Devils Lake Public Schools.

The state of ND has been and is currently in a teacher shortage so by not continuing to invest in the NDTSS I believe the shortage will increase and we will not be able to keep new teachers within our school systems.

Please consider supporting this bill.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Ahna Fixen

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