

Senate Appropriations Testimony: HB1013, DPI Passthrough Grant. 2025-2027 Biennium

Dear Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Zucca-Scott, and I am the Northern Plains Writing Project Co-Director and a Professor at Minot State University - Teacher Education and Inclusive Services Department. I am respectfully testifying today regarding HB1013 - - A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Department of Public Instruction. Specifically, I am writing to support DPI passthrough grant funding for North Dakota's writing project sites.

This funding has been crucial to our ability to support dedicated K-12 educators across the state. During our summer institutes, educators invest their time and energy in honing their skills and working collaboratively with their colleagues. These experiences are essential to support and retain qualified educators.

I would also like to express our profound gratitude for this Committee's past support, which has been instrumental in our work. Your support has been a cornerstone of our success, and we recognize the crucial role you play in the advancement of education in our state. We sincerely appreciate the trust you have placed in us. This concludes my personal testimony concerning HB1013. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

With this testimony, I am including a joint support statement of a group of seven present and aspiring NPWP Scholars and Educators:

We appreciate the work of the Northern Plains Writing Project and endorse their request for continued and increased funding to \$36,000 for the 2025-2027 biennium. Several of us have taken the summer and advanced institutes of this writing project and have benefited greatly from the content and discussions of this professional development. As K-12 educators, citizens of North Dakota, and lifelong learners, we appreciate opportunities such as the writing project provides for community outreach.

The institutes we have been involved in have provided a roadmap for greater understanding and currency of topics such as generative artificial intelligence and writing, teaching writing in new and dynamic ways in digital environments, working with learners from multiple language backgrounds, and developing new lesson planning approaches. These institutes have influenced the way we teach and engage with our own students. We cannot speak highly enough of this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Kelsey Fardella
Traci Hair
Lauryn Heide
Meera Ostrom
Tutu Segun
Rhaspede Logan
Courtney Weisz