

Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Jessica Kendall. I am a resident of West Fargo, ND and have been a teacher in the Fargo Public Schools since 2004.

As I am seeing on the news more and more about shortages, the need for subs, sign on bonuses, lowering qualifications to sub, I keep thinking about those of us who have been in classrooms day in and day out for decades. I am up for my license renewal next October. I can say, with confidence, obtaining credits has not been at the top of my priority list the last 3 years as we have gone through the challenges of education during the pandemic. I am a 21 year veteran. I have a BA, BS, MA and more than 60 credits beyond my MA. As a lifelong learner, I will continue to engage in our district's professional development. Yet, here I sit scrambling to find a credit for re-licensure here and there while the standards and qualifications for educators joining the profession are lowered in hopes of recruiting people for a challenging and under-resourced profession.

I was thrilled to see the introduction of HB 1329 and, like so many of my colleagues, felt appreciation for our dedication. I urge you to give HB 1329 a Do Pass recommendation and look forward to this excellent idea becoming law.