

**Good morning (morning?) Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman and members of the Education Interim Committee, I am Anna Hoover, currently completing my semester of student teaching. I have been involved with education since.....**

**I am in favor of this bill.**

Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

As educated individuals, we have the opportunity and responsibility to use our knowledge to positively impact society. Our own education has allowed us to become educators ourselves, and in doing so, we can contribute to the betterment of humanity.

However, it is important to recognize the sacrifices and hard work of the educators who have helped us along the way. In a survey by Ainley and Carstens, U.S. teachers reported working an average of 46.2 hours a week. This is more than the global survey average of 38.3 hours (Ainley & Carstens, 2018). Sadly, many teachers are underappreciated and unsupported, leading to 40% of teachers leaving the profession within their first five years. Many of those who remain are left feeling burnt out, unsupported, and undervalued in their work (Clandinin and Long et al., 2015).

In September 2015, the United Nations General Assembly approved the Sustainable Development Goals, one of which is SDG-4, which aims to provide inclusive, quality education for all by 2030. This goal cannot be achieved without the dedication and hard work of teachers. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the future of society by providing students with the knowledge, skills, and motivation they need to succeed.

One way to support teachers and student teachers is through the Student Teacher Experience Program (STEP) bill. This bill is designed to address the major challenges faced by student teachers, such as lack of financial support, lack of motivation and support, and excessive paperwork. Additionally, it aims to support student teachers in rural districts by providing higher pay for those in such areas. Through this bill, student teachers can collaborate with classroom teachers to develop and implement effective instruction methods, evaluate and document student progress and attendance, and provide instruction that is appropriate for students' developmental levels. It is important to support and value the contributions of student teachers in order to ensure the success of future generations.

It is not uncommon for students to receive financial compensation for internships, so why not for student teaching as well? Providing financial support for student teachers not only serves as an incentive for future educators but also helps to alleviate the financial burden of tuition, mileage, lodging, and other expenses.

I urge you all to consider making this a reality for North Dakota student teachers. Showing appreciation for the hard work and dedication of student teachers not only boosts their morale and job satisfaction but also serves as a reminder of the vital role that teachers play in shaping the lives of students and the future of our society (Carless, 2018).

As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Let's support our future educators in their journey to make a positive impact.

## References

- Ainley, J., & Carstens, R. (2018). Teaching and learning international survey (TALIS) 2018 conceptual framework.
- Bates, A. T. (2018). *Teaching in a digital age: Guidelines for designing teaching and learning*
- Carless, D., & Boud, D. (2018). The development of student feedback literacy: enabling uptake of feedback. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 43(8), 1315-1325.
- Clandinin, D. J., Long, J., Schaefer, L., Downey, C. A., Steeves, P., Pinnegar, E., ... & Wnuk, S. (2015).
- Early career teacher attrition: Intentions of teachers beginning. *Teaching education*, 26(1), 1-16.
- Hoque, M. N., & Abdullah, M. F. (2021). THE WORLD'S OLDEST UNIVERSITY AND ITS FINANCING EXPERIENCE: A STUDY ON AL-QARAWIYYIN UNIVERSITY (859-990). *Journal of Nusantara Studies (JONUS)*, 6(1), 24-41.