

Dear Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to continue funding the Red River Valley Writing Project, which is supported by a Department of Public Instruction pass-through grant for North Dakota's writing project sites. As a member of this community, I have seen firsthand the positive impact this program has on our teachers and students.

The Red River Valley Writing Project is a professional development program that provides teachers with the training and support they need to improve their writing instruction. By participating in this program, teachers gain new skills and strategies that enable them to better engage their students and help them develop stronger writing skills. This, in turn, benefits our students by preparing them for academic success and future careers. Since 2016 when I first started in the program as a student teacher, this professional development has transformed me professionally as an English teacher, and this has benefited my whole department at my high school. This last summer I was able to lead a summer workshop on AI and how it impacts writing instruction, and we were able to recruit teachers from K-12 all the way up to college professors. This professional development has been some of the best I have ever received in my career as an English teacher in North Dakota.

Furthermore, the Red River Valley Writing Project is a program that focuses on ensuring that all students have access to high-quality writing instruction. This is especially important for students from underrepresented communities who may face barriers to academic success. The program's emphasis on culturally responsive teaching practices ensures that all students feel valued and supported in their learning.

Unfortunately, the funding for the Red River Valley Writing Project is currently at risk. Without continued support, this valuable program may be forced to cut back on its services or even shut down entirely. This would be a tremendous loss for our community and for the students and teachers who rely on this program.

Therefore, I urge you to support continued funding for the Red River Valley Writing Project. Please consider the impact that this program has on our

community and the importance of providing our teachers and students with the resources they need to succeed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nathan Kurtti

North Dakota English teacher