

To: Chair Nathe and Committee Members

Re: HB 1013

Date: January 23, 2025

From: Teresa Lyn Tande, retired 7-College Writing Teacher and **RRWP** member and participant

SHORT VERSION: Please continue to support funding for DPI special projects. My involvement with the Writing Projects in North Dakota set a positive course early on in my 44.5 years of teaching writing grades 7-College.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE: I retired from teaching after 44.5 years---(and all but one of them great years.) I attribute much of my joy in teaching to the National Writing Project. I attended my first summer institute very early in my teaching career (3 years in) and from it gained so much knowledge about teaching writing. Specific writing pedagogy had not been a part of my teacher training.

I repeated the institute in 1992, but with all new people and different backgrounds, it was a totally different experience but still rich with learning. Those conferences were both with the NPWP out of Minot. In 2000, I became part of the **Red River Writing Project** and in no time at all was very involved, but this time on the giving end---which was just as rich of an experience.

Although I have taught K-College, I have taught writing only to 7-College. What I learned with my involvement in the Writing Projects worked well with any of the age groups I taught. Also, because the entire set-up is different from a more traditional classroom, the knowledge gained is applicable not only to any grade level, but also to any teacher's experience level.

Funding for **RRWP** is essential to be able to offer this deep experience to other teachers throughout the state. As a site, they have been especially active and proactive dealing with the challenges of writing, especially in this age of AI. They had attendees research articles on how to deal with AI in the classroom. The final papers were shared with **RRWP** members. Because I am still a member, I received the articles, all of them rich in research, experience, and pedagogy. If money allows, that theme will be repeated in 2025.

The Writing Project is one of the long-standing education opportunities in North Dakota. You can help that continue by voting to support funding for DPI Special Projects such as **RRWP**.

Thank you for your time.