

**HB1013--A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the
Department of Public Instruction**

A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the department of public instruction, the center for distance education, the state library, the school for the deaf, and North Dakota vision services - school for the blind; and to provide an exemption.

January 23, 2025

**Testimony of
Angelia Muha
Secondary English Teacher**

Good afternoon, Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee. My name is Angelia Muha, and while I teach English 9 and English 12 at a high school in Virginia, I can attest to the overwhelming benefit of the NPWP Summer Institutes for teachers, students, and literacy advocates. I am in support of HB1013. More specifically, I am here to ask you to support DPI pass-through grant funding for North Dakota's writing project sites.

Last summer, I attended the NPWP Summer Institutes through Minot State University. This program provides teachers with resources and content specific professional development that tackles the domain specific aspects of teaching literacy and encouraging our students to find their voice as they grow as writers. Too often, professional development for teachers are too general to address the specific issues that English and literature teachers face in their classrooms. However, this institute gives teachers the opportunity to learn and collaborate with colleagues and respected scholars who provide a unique experience that is transformative for our English classrooms. My experience has not only influenced my approach to teaching literature and writing, but has also helped me to bring my curriculum into this digital age. Without this training, I would still struggle to incorporate the tools and strategies necessary to incorporate global technologies and aspects to my curriculum that our students in this global, digital age so desperately need. Additionally, the unique opportunity that this program provides opens the borders of the state for North Dakota teachers and connects them with colleagues throughout the nation allowing for collaboration and critical thinking to solve similar problems that many

English teachers are facing in their classrooms today. Frankly, this kind of collaboration and problem-solving is unlikely without the institute or like minded programs. It is no secret that students benefit when teachers have access to effective professional development, but budget and various other constraints, often, can be a deterrent for districts to engage in this type of specific pedagogical professional development for literacy, English, and literature teachers. Yet, this is the very type of professional development that catapults English teachers to the next level providing them with the resources, professional connections, and current and relevant content knowledge necessary to keep students globally marketable in this modern age. Thus, I urge you to support DPI pass-through grant funding for North Dakota's writing project sites.

Thank you for your time this afternoon, Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee. Your consideration of this matter is sincerely appreciated.