

HB1013

January 23, 2025

Dear Chair Nathe and Members of the Committee,

My name is Laura Zucca-Scott, and I am the Northern Plains Writing Project Co-Director and a Professor at Minot State University - Teacher Education and Inclusive Services Department. I am respectfully testifying today regarding HB1013 - - A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Department of Public Instruction.” Specifically, I am writing to support DPI passthrough grant funding for North Dakota’s writing project sites”

This funding has been crucial to our ability to support dedicated K-12 educators across the state. Educators invest their time and energy during our summer institutes, honing their skills and working collaboratively with their colleagues. K-12 educators may elect to take these courses as professional development hours or to receive up to six graduate credit hours each summer toward their M.Ed. coursework. These hours may also count toward the required eighteen subject hours in English for those educators teaching dual credit courses. Since we seek to increase the number of highly qualified teachers in North Dakota, this funding represents an investment in our prospective and current K-12 educators and students. Students greatly benefit from the experiences of the adults working alongside them daily in the classroom. For instance, one of our recent summer institute alumna enthusiastically shared how she was excited to implement her newly acquired multimedia strategies and resources with her students, resulting in increased student engagement in her writing courses. This is only one of the many examples of the reinvigorating effects of our writing project.

The Northern Plains Writing Project has been a vital part of our communities since 1978, and we are proud of the long-standing relationship we have with the State of North Dakota. We are very thankful for the state’s continued support, providing a budget for each biennium supporting the writing project. It would be a significant loss for our communities if we could not fully and continuously support our educators at a crucial junction for the future of education in our state. However, with your help, we can continue to provide these essential services, ensuring a brighter future for our students and communities.

I would also like to express our profound gratitude for this Committee's past support, which has been instrumental in our work. Your support has been a cornerstone of our success, and we are deeply appreciative of the trust you have placed in us. This concludes my testimony concerning HB1013. Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

Warm regards,



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