

January 23, 2025

Martina Kranz
1115 32nd Avenue SE
Minot, ND 58701

SUBJECT: HB1013—A Bill for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Department of Public Instruction

Dear Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee,

I am writing this letter to express my support for DPI pass-through grant funding for North Dakota's writing project sites.

I completed the Northern Plains Writing Project (NPWP) in the summers of 2020 and 2024, and these writing projects helped me immensely in my part-time job as a middle school paraprofessional (and also as a trained librarian). Without the available scholarships, I wouldn't have been able to complete these courses, which have helped me so much in several ways.

Everyone learns in different ways. These summer institutes helped me to think and to teach more creatively—that there is more than one way to teach a subject to students—from elementary to high school students. The NPWP has also helped me with my confidence in teaching kids and writing for my own improvement. Kids also need to know that teachers—in my case, a paraprofessional—is willing to learn along with them.

Lastly, I pass along the knowledge I learned in the NPWP summer institutes to the students. Thanks to the NPWP, I had the opportunity, the resources, and the community to learn some important skills. Educators need the writing project programs!

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Martina Kranz