

House Appropriations - Education and Environment

Division on HB1013

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 24, 2025

Testimony of Lauryn Heide

5th Grade Teacher

Good evening, Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee. My name is Lauryn Heide. I am currently a 5th grade teacher at an elementary school in Williston. I am writing to express my strong support for the continuation of DPI pass-through grant funding for North Dakota's Writing Project sites. These grants have been instrumental not only in my own personal and professional growth but also in the development of many other educators across the state.

As a graduate student, I have benefited greatly from these grants, which have allowed me to complete credits toward my graduate degree in English, while simultaneously enhancing my teaching practice. The opportunities provided through the North Dakota Writing Project have been transformative, offering both the academic stimulation of rigorous coursework and the practical experience of collaborating with fellow educators. This balance has been invaluable, allowing me to better serve my students and continue advancing in my own academic journey.

More than just a tool for individual progress, the grant funding fosters a sense of community and collaboration among teachers. Through these grants, teachers are given the chance to come together, share ideas, and support each other in our common goal of improving student education. The professional development that results from these interactions is unmatched, as we not only refine our craft but also learn from one another's experiences and expertise.

I have seen firsthand how these grants strengthen the structure of North Dakota's educational community. They enable teachers to become more innovative, more connected, and ultimately, more effective in the classroom. I believe this investment in educators has a ripple effect, positively impacting the students we serve and contributing to the growth of our state's education system as a whole.

I urge you to continue supporting the pass-through grant funding for the North Dakota Writing Project sites. It is an investment in the future of our educators, our students, and our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lauryn Heide

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