

To Chairman Nathe and Members of the Committee, regarding HB1013—A BILL for an Act to provide an appropriation for defraying the expenses of the Department of Public Instruction, I am submitting this testimony in support of DPI pass-through grant funding for North Dakota's writing project sites.

I recently completed both sections of the Northern Plains Writing Project at Minot State University. During my time in those four classes, I learned countless strategies that I could use in my middle and high school English classrooms. In fact, I created an entire writing unit for my 8th grade students based on instruction I received from the project this summer. As an educator working towards my Master's Degree, I found the program to be invaluable. Writing is one of the most fundamental tasks we ask our students to do, yet it takes the most time and often produces the lowest scores. As an educator, I am always looking for more effective ways to teach writing to my students. The guidance I received during my time in the Northern Plains Writing Project has proved to be critical to the success of my students. I am a much more effective writing teacher now than I was before I entered the project. To lose funding for such an effective asset for teachers would be detrimental to the success of grade 6-12 students across the state. Teachers need the tools, processes, and skillsets offered by such programs so they can pass that knowledge on to their students. I can think of few more catastrophic outcomes for students than their teachers losing access to resources that would help them provide better instruction. These programs must continue to be funded. The future of North Dakotan students depends on it.