

January 18, 2025

I am writing in support of HB 1238 to establish a lifetime teaching license after twenty years of teaching.

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to let you know how much I support House Bill 1238, which proposes the creation of lifetime teacher licenses for North Dakota educators after twenty years. This legislation is essential to recognizing teachers' invaluable contributions to our state and its future.

Educators are at the heart of our communities, shaping the minds and lives of the next generation. However, the licensing renewal process can often add unnecessary stress and administrative burden to our already demanding responsibilities. We can reduce this strain by implementing lifetime teacher licenses, allowing educators to focus on what we do best—teaching and inspiring students.

Additionally, this legislation sends a powerful message: we value and respect teachers' lifelong commitment to their profession. It reflects North Dakota's dedication to retaining and supporting quality educators, addressing workforce challenges, and strengthening public education across the state. Our state currently has a teacher shortage to fill all open teaching positions. Passing this bill will send a clear message that we support the profession and will attract more teachers to the profession.

I urge you to give a "DO PASS" recommendation to House Bill 1238 and demonstrate your commitment to educators who make such a difference in the lives of North Dakota's children. Thank you for considering this critical step in supporting our teachers and our schools.

Sincerely,

Laura Halvorson  
Teacher, Bottineau Public School