

Dear Chairman Heinert and the House Education Committee,

I am Dawn Mord, an educator of 34 years in the state of North Dakota. I am currently in my 31<sup>st</sup> year of teaching in the Grand Forks Public School system and hold my lifetime teaching certificate. Applying for and receiving my lifetime certification was a highlight in my career. It was an acknowledgement that I am an excellent educator and no longer have to have proof of it every 5 years. It is also part of the reason I have decided to stay and finish my career here in North Dakota.

I urge you to give HB 1238 a “Do Pass” recommendation. This bill is a practical way to retain quality educators without sacrificing professional standards. By reducing the time required for lifetime teaching licenses from 30 to 20 years, you’re recognizing the commitment of long-time educators. Twenty years in a classroom is more than enough to demonstrate dedication and professionalism.

This is a great opportunity to demonstrate respect for our state’s teachers. Please, support HB 1238 and ease the burden of re-licensure for experienced teachers who give their all for North Dakota’s children.

Dawn Mord  
1723 S 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grand Forks, ND 58201