

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have had the privilege of being an educator for 12 years, all in the state of North Dakota. Throughout my young, but determined career, I have retained my masters of education and most recently, my doctorate. While I have chosen this path for myself, I understand the pressing issues of continuing education credits. Keeping a license updated with personal finances is as struggle for most, as we know that the pay rate for teachers is drastically undercut and underappreciated in most areas.

I believe that moving the lifetime license to 20 years instead of 30, would help increase the state of North Dakota to not only retain but bring in educators that are wanting to stay within the field. Not only will it help in that aspect, but it will allow those of us who have higher degrees in the field to sustain our financials and not constantly worry about what other credits we need to complete, regardless of the fact that we are highly educated.

We are in a critical teacher shortage and by lowering the lifetime license to 20 years, we would be able to sustain teachers for longer. I urge you to consider the positive, rather than negative outcomes of passing this bill. I am in high favor, not just for myself, but for my fellow colleagues.

I thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Margaret Hilbers

Watford City, North Dakota