

Testimony in Support of House Bill 1238 - Lifetime Teaching License

Chairperson and distinguished members of the committee,

I am writing to you today in strong support of House Bill 1238, which proposes the establishment of a lifetime teaching license for educators with twenty years of dedicated service. This bill represents a significant step towards recognizing and valuing the commitment of our experienced teachers.

For two decades, these educators have poured their hearts and minds into shaping the future of our state. They have navigated countless curriculum changes, adapted to evolving technologies, and most importantly, they have invested in the lives of generations of students. This bill acknowledges their unwavering dedication and the wealth of knowledge they have accumulated.

A lifetime license would offer several key benefits:

- **Recognition and Retention:** It sends a powerful message that we value our experienced teachers and their contributions. This recognition can boost morale and encourage them to continue serving our students.
- **Reduced Administrative Burden:** Eliminating the need for repeated license renewals would free up valuable time for teachers to focus on what they do best: teaching. It also reduces administrative costs for school districts.
- **Stability and Continuity:** Experienced teachers provide stability and continuity within our schools. A lifetime license would encourage them to remain in the profession, benefiting students with their accumulated expertise.
- **Focus on Professional Development:** This change will allow for the focus to shift from license renewal requirements to meaningful professional development that enhances teaching skills and student outcomes.
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It is important to emphasize that this bill does not diminish the importance of ongoing professional development. Experienced teachers remain committed to continuous learning, and schools will continue to provide opportunities for growth.

By passing House Bill 1238, we demonstrate our commitment to supporting our dedicated educators and ensuring that our students have access to the best possible education. I urge you to vote in favor of this important legislation.

Thank you.

Alexis Rasset