



WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Valley City Public School District

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“Together we are building a legacy of excellence, one student at a time”

**Testimony in Support of HB1013 Funding for National Board Certification
Appropriations Committee
January 13, 2021
Valley City Public Schools**

Good morning Chairman Monson and members of the Education Appropriations Committee. My name is Kathy Lentz and I am a fifth grade teacher at Washington Elementary School in Valley City. I am Nationally Board Certified as a Middle Childhood Generalist. I achieved my initial certification in 2004 and renewed in 2014. Thank you for all you have done to acknowledge and reward National Board Certified teachers in the state. I am here this morning to request an increase in the current funding for National Board Certified teachers for the next biennium. Additional money would be used to support and encourage more teachers to pursue National Board Certification.

National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students, and schools. National Board Certification was designed to develop, retain, and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools. National Board Certification elevates the teaching profession.

All teachers across North Dakota attend professional development. However, those who truly want to become master teachers take on this voluntary, rigorous process. National Board Certification is the most valuable professional development I have ever completed. Going through the process changed my teaching. It forced me to question the purpose and value of every assignment and activity I expect my students to complete. The emphasis is on evidence of

student learning. Since going through the process, I now demand that every assignment result in student learning. Self-reflection is key to becoming an accomplished teacher. If my students are not showing evidence of learning, I need to explore other ways to make learning happen.

Becoming Nationally Board Certified is a journey of growth. It is designed to meet the needs of each and every teacher who takes on the challenge. Earning certification requires determination, perseverance, and a drive to become the best teacher one can be. It produces confidence. It produces leaders. It produces master teachers.

Increasing the funding will allow more teachers to experience top-notch professional development. I have been encouraging teachers in the Valley City area. Some are ready to take on the challenge. I would organize a cohort of these educators and provide guidance as they go through the four components of the process. Josh Johnson, Superintendent of Valley City Public Schools, is supportive of this plan and understands the positive impact it would have on our current and future Hi-liners. North Dakota schools need more educational leaders, and our North Dakota students need quality teachers in their classrooms.

This concludes my testimony; thank- you for your support and consideration.