



Stephanie Radle
West Fargo Sheyenne High School

HB2013
Appropriations - Education and Environment Division

March 06, 2023

Chair Nathe and members of the Appropriations Committee, Education and Environment Division,

My name is Stephanie Radle. I am a teacher and coach in West Fargo, and a three-time attendee of the Northern Plains Writing Project. I am testifying today in support of HB2013, requesting the reinstatement and recommended increase for the budget of each writing project.

I have participated in the Northern Plains Writing Project three times. The expertise of the professors, course materials, course structure, and collaborative atmosphere create what is undoubtedly the best professional development in which I have ever participated. As a teacher, I am subjected to a great deal of P.D. from individuals who either are no longer or never were classroom teachers. Those sessions can be helpful, but more often than not they treat educators like we don't know what we are doing or they leave us overwhelmed. Those kinds of experiences are part of what push teachers out of the profession. Options like the Writing Project are the rare gems that actually inspire and empower educators. My first summer in the program was so impactful that I opted to obtain my master's degree through Minot State and attended the institute two additional times when given the opportunity. The Writing Project inspired me to continue teaching during the first few years of my career (often the hardest) and through the pandemic. I also regularly recommend the program to curious colleagues.

In 2022, the state Education Standards and Practice Board announced a critical shortage of teachers for all subject areas in the state. We believe that accomplishing the mission of the writing project is essential to addressing the critical shortage of well-qualified English teachers in North Dakota. The financial support coming from the state has been essential as grant funds for K-12 educators to help defray the tuition cost for those opting to receive graduate credit while taking the writing project institutes. For this reason, restoring and increasing the budgets of both the Northern Plains Writing Project and the Red River Valley Writing Project is vitally important and fiscally sound as an investment in both North Dakota educators as well as their students.

Thank you again for your consideration. This concludes my testimony with respect to HB2013.

Regards,

Stephanie Radle

English Teacher

Assistant Debate Coach

Prom Committee Advisor

Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Club Advisor

D&D Club Advisor