

Chairman Wobbema and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee,

My name is Matt Hallquist and I would like to share my support for HB1329 in person, however, I am in the classroom with students all day. I am an eighth grade English teacher at Ben Franklin Middle School in Fargo; 24-years of teaching in Fargo alone. Each day I help shape our next generation of citizens. With my occupation comes a myriad of responsibilities and challenges. It also means that from the moment I get into my car to head to school in the morning until I turn out the lights at home at night, nearly every minute of my day is spent tackling said responsibilities and challenges. Nearly every educator I know would tell you the one thing they could use is time. Time to plan, time to collaborate with colleagues, time to recharge. HB 1329 would go a long way to recognizing this need and would be a great morale booster for educators when we all could use one. We would continue to sharpen our skills with ongoing professional development even after obtaining a lifetime license—approval of this bill would say, “Thank you!” to 20-year educators and save them some sorely needed time.