



Testimony SB 1329
Education Standards and Practices Board
Senate Workforce Development Committee
March 9, 2023

Good afternoon, Chairman Wobbema, and members of the Committee. My name is Rebecca Pitkin, and I am the Executive Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board (ESPB). I represent the ESPB Board which met on January 17, 2023, and I testify in opposition to HB 1329. Our board appreciates and understands the sentiment of this bill and are “all about supporting teachers” as this is the daily work we do. We also recognize much is to be done to keep teachers in the field, yet our board believes this is not the answer. The Board acknowledged the potential fiscal impact (\$25,000 a year) of this bill to a fee funded occupational board, yet board members articulated the potential impact on the safety of children. Changing a 30-year life license to a 20-year life license eliminates two additional checks on a teacher’s background. At each 5-year renewal, applicants must answer the questions on the attached application. A recent review of board cases over the past three years indicated the following:

2020: 20% of the cases (33) fell into the category of not needing two additional renewals. Six individuals received board sanctions.

2021: 23% of the cases (65) fell into the category of not needing two additional renewals. Eight individuals received board sanctions.

2022: 55% of the cases (60), fell into the category of not needing two additional renewals. Seven individuals received board sanctions.

In addition, while our board acknowledged districts have many professional development initiatives, they also noted the importance of the ongoing learning credits needed for each renewal, noting teachers are expected to be life-long learners. In summary, the Board's greatest concern is loss of opportunity for individuals upon license renewal, to self-report any offenses in the 10-year span between a 20-year license when an applicant would be approximately 40 years old, and a 30-year license, thus not meeting the Board's non-negotiable of doing what is best for children.

This concludes my testimony, and I will answer any questions.

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Information on 30 Year Licenses in Other States:

Montana: No 30-year license. Teachers continue to get a 5 year license their full career and need 60 professional units every 5 years

South Dakota: No 30-year license. Teachers can get an Advanced Teaching Certificate if they have taught 5 years and are national board certified. They need 6 credits every 5 years.

Minnesota: No 30 -year license. Teachers can get a Tier 4 license, renewable "interminably" if they upload their teaching evaluation and have passed all exams. 6 reeducation credits needed.

Iowa: If an individual achieves a "Master License" and have advanced degrees and are a teacher mentor or have a student teacher they can complete 2 reeducation credits every 5 years.