

Dear Chair Richardson and Committee Members,

In my twelve years of experience in education, I have worked with some of the most fantastic educators and administrators you will ever encounter and some of the worst imaginable.

In two years at one school, the only feedback I got from my principal was to use my smartboard more. Within a month of teaching at a different school, I got feedback from my principal about interrogating the quality of my questioning to students. The first principal held an administrator license, while the second did not.

I used to watch a group of colleagues stand and chat in the hallway for the first 20 minutes of class, leaving students to wonder what they were supposed to be doing. I have sat in a lecture hall and listened to students share their analysis of Supreme Court cases in an AP Government class. The first group of teachers held traditional licenses, while the second did not.

My point is obvious. There are good teachers and there are bad teachers. In twelve years, I have seen no correlation between teacher quality and license status. Our goal in Minnesota should be to make great teachers and to support as many people as possible in becoming great teachers. Open more pathways to licensure. Do not close existing pathways.

Thank you for your time,

Natalie Heath