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Written Testimony Regarding HF 1376 & SF848

To Whom It May Concern:

I am reaching out to you regarding HF 1376 and SF 848 in Regards to Teaching License Provisions. The intent to change the number of times a Tier 2 teaching license can be renewed and changing the pathway to transition from Tier 2 to Tier 3 licensure is not only negatively impacting teachers but will also impact students. Many in areas where it is already difficult to fill teaching positions and find staff (like special ed.)

I am a Special Education Teacher, teaching on a Tier 2 license. I completed coursework as part of a teacher preparation program however did not “complete” the program due to the school shifting to a different licensure program and my own life changes. I have the foundations coursework and methods coursework. When I looked at transferring to another program, I was met with challenge and frustration. Either programs did not want to transfer my courses or they wanted me to go back and retake things from their program. MN does not have great options for adult friendly licensure programs. For this I am thankful for our alternative pathway to licensure. I come from years experience working with persons with disabilities and case management. I can honestly say that the best training I have ever received was working in the schools and teaching. I have learned more through mentorship programs, district training offerings and learning on the job than my preparation program. Putting a limit on the number of renewals for the Tier 2 seems unneeded. Tier 2 teachers can easily work and apply with districts and receive support and mentoring. There is also no reason to cut the option of *Three years teaching experience at Tier 2 without being placed on an improvement plan* as one of the options in the ability to move to a Tier 3. Doing so serves more of a challenge for those teachers who are already teaching and have the opportunity to move to Tier 3. Intentionally adding unnecessary challenges to keeping and renewing teaching licenses is something that teachers absolutely do not need. To keep as many teachers as possible we need more support, smooth transitions and not more hurdles and hoops to jump through. I encourage you to work with, keep and encourage as many teachers as possible to stay in the classroom by not limiting Tier 2 renewals and not removing the years of teaching experience option as one of three requirements for a Tier 3 allowing for transition from Tier 2 to Tier 3. Thank you for your time.

Larissa Lambertz