

March 17, 2025

Dear Members of the House Education Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in regard to HF 630. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is responsible for licensing 110,000 teachers in Minnesota, establishing the state standards required to be a licensed teacher, and overseeing the state's nearly 700 teacher licensure programs.

School districts and community partners have shared with PELSB that the short-call substitute pilot program offered greater flexibility in filling short-term assignments. Data from the first year and a half of the pilot shows nearly 180 districts utilized the program to hire 482 substitute teachers. The vast majority of these substitute teachers (395) are paraprofessionals who had already been working in the district. We believe extending this pilot will continue to provide flexibility to districts, while prioritizing filling short-term assignments with educators who know and work with the students in their districts.

PELSB has also heard from school districts, particularly in Greater Minnesota, that an adjustment to the pay language would further expand use of this pathway. Our Board supports adjusting the language to "the same rate of pay as other short-call substitute teachers in the school district or charter school or the employee's existing rate of pay, whichever is greater." With that said, PELSB also recognizes the importance of pay equity and recommends that districts pay short-call substitute teachers participating in this program the highest wage possible.

In closing, we would like to reiterate PELSB's support for HF 630 and encourage committee members to vote in support of it as well.

Sincerely,



Yelena Bailey, Ph.D.

PELSB, Executive Director



Angela Osuji, Ph.D.

PELSB, Chair