

March 11, 2024


Dear Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in regard to SF 3698. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is responsible for establishing the state standards required to be a licensed teacher in Minnesota and for overseeing the state's teacher licensure programs. One of PELSB's legislative priorities this session is to support policy measures that help ensure every Minnesota child can read at or above grade level. SF 3698 builds off the investments and changes made to law last year to ensure all of Minnesota's students have well-trained teachers who have the knowledge and skills to provide evidence-based reading instruction.

SF 3698 complements PELSB's work in ensuring Minnesota's future educators are prepared to teach Minnesota's students. PELSB is currently implementing a new audit cycle of all approved licensure programs in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Reading, and Special Education. This audit verifies that teacher preparation programs in the aforementioned areas include robust instruction on the science of reading, therefore ensuring each future teacher is prepared to implement scientific reading instruction to support Minnesota's students. SF 3698 would require the results of this audit be shared with legislative committees for further consideration.

In closing, we would like to reiterate the Board's support for SF 3698 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