

Members of the House Education Finance Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding HF 3344. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is responsible for licensing and overseeing teachers in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Education began the formal rulemaking process to make changes to the K-12 science academic standards in 2019. The proposed 2019 science standards move “Earth and Space Science” from 8th grade to 6th grade and “Physical Science” from high school to 8th grade. The standards also place greater emphasis on the teaching of “Earth and Space Science” at the high school level.

The implementation dates for the K-12 science standards were delayed until 2024-25 due to COVID-related impacts. This delayed timeline provides time for the education system to update and modify curriculum. Additionally, this timeline provides time for science teachers, who may be teaching at a new grade level or content area, to obtain pedagogical and content professional development and/or pursue adding a license so they can teach their new assignments.

HF 3344 would provide the needed support to many science teachers seeking professional development opportunities and taking content exams.

We hope legislators will reach out to PELSB to discuss questions or additional options to support teachers be prepared and licensed to teach new content or grade levels.

Sincerely,



Alex Liuzzi
PELSB, Executive Director



Brian Rappe
PELSB, Chair