

Dear Senator Gile and Members of the Energy, Education, and Environment Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of educators who are affected by the discrepancy between the 10-year and 5-year National Board Certification (NBC) maintenance cycles. I understand this situation was likely an unintended oversight within the Blueprint, but it has created an inequity for veteran National Board Certified teachers like me.

I initially achieved National Board Certification in 2009, at a time when the process was especially rigorous and challenging. In 2019, I successfully renewed my certification for another 10-year cycle. Both my original certification and renewal required a far more extensive and demanding process than the current system.

Unfortunately, since the passage of the Blueprint, educators like me who are on the 10-year renewal cycle are excluded from receiving the enhancement for maintenance of certification. Because my next renewal opportunity is not until 2029, I am unable to access the same opportunities available to teachers who certified after us and who now renew every five years. This creates an unintended inequity between veteran National Board Certified teachers and those who entered the process more recently.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support and pass this bill so that educators on the 10-year cycle can receive equitable recognition and compensation for maintaining our certification. The level of rigor that veteran National Board Certified teachers experienced—both during our initial certification and renewal—demonstrates our long-standing commitment to the profession.

Please consider passing this bill to ensure fairness for those of us who have dedicated our careers to mentoring colleagues, supporting students, and strengthening the teaching profession. We remain committed to continuing that work for many years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lauren Long