

Senate Education

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HB24-1446 Professional Development for Science Teachers

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Beverly DeVore-Wedding For herself	<p>Thank you for allowing me to comment on HB 24-1446. I support this bill as it provides necessary training for teachers of science, especially teachers from rural areas of Colorado.</p> <p>As a former secondary science teacher in rural Colorado, I know the difficulties of obtaining good professional development. Frequently district-wide professional development in rural schools is one size but it doesn't fit all. I earned a M.S. in science education to learn more content-specific pedagogical knowledge.</p> <p>When the Meeker Re-1 school district went on a four-day school week, 1994-1997, I traveled to the Denver-Metro area for quality science professional learning. I participated in the Colorado Association of Science Teachers (CAST) workshops and joined their leadership team. I also relied on the National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) for professional learning. The association with CAST allowed me to enter the national science educators scene. I have served on numerous committees with NSTA, including the chair of the Rural Science Advisory Board, 2019-2022. The leadership opportunities with NSTA led to my election to the presidential chain this year, starting with the President-elect on June 1.</p> <p>I served on the Colorado Academic Science Standards Review & Revise Committee in 2017. We used the NGSS as the model and added Colorado-specific content, but still, there are teachers unfamiliar with the new standards (implemented in 2021). When I worked in the teacher preparation program at Adams State University (2019-2023), I found that many in-service teachers were still working from older Colorado Academic Science Standards. Providing in-service support for teachers of science to update their credentials, learn evidence-based practices, and increase their understanding of the Colorado Science Academic Standards is essential to support our students and their future science literacy regardless of their career paths.</p> <p>I appreciate the expansion of the current bill allowing Colorado's Institutions of Higher Education to contract with other entities to</p>

	<p>provide this professional development. I also appreciate the funding provided to begin this initiative.</p> <p>Again, thank you for reading my testimony in support of HB 24-1446.</p>
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