

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

Dear Chair Bernardy, Chair Tomassoni, and members of the Higher Education conference committee,

The Minnesota Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) strongly supports increasing funding for the Underrepresented Student Teacher grants and the Aspiring Educators of Color Scholarships in HF 3872.

The two biggest barriers to becoming a teacher and earning the license and degree include the program cost and losing income during the student teaching period. There is a significantly greater need than there is funding for these grant programs. The increase in funding would have a tremendous impact on the lives of individuals and on the bigger goal of increasing the diversity of our teachers in Minnesota. Research shows that over half of educators have significant student loan debt and that educators of color have significantly more student loan debt than white educators.

The need is so urgent in our state and more funding is vital to provide the crucial scholarships to support our future teachers of color and American Indian teachers. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Laura Mogelson
MACTE Legislative Liaison