

# Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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January 17, 2023

Dear Chair Pryor and House Education Policy Committee Members,

The Minnesota Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) supports the Increase Teachers of Color Act (HF320). This legislation represents necessary work to strengthen existing programs and to create new efforts needed to attract, prepare, license and retain an increased number of teachers of color and American Indian teachers in Minnesota. HF320 strengthens existing programs and creates new efforts needed to increase the percentage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers in the state. We support:

- Policy and funding for teacher preparation collaborations between districts and preparation programs in institutions of higher education, including increasing funding to Grow Your Own (GYO) programs. GYO collaborations have grown in number since launching just a few years ago; these partnerships have statewide reach and great appeal to grow and support local talent. The change in policy to add more eligibility and flexibility in collaborations for adult pathways creates more access to programs and the support of the GYO funds.
- Increases in funding to Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color (CUGMEC) grant program and modifications to the statute language. The demand for this grant far exceeds the current level of funding.
- Changes in licensure rules and testing that remove barriers for people entering the teaching profession.
- The creation of state goals to increase teachers of color and Native American teachers.

The Increase Teachers of Color Act addresses both the severe shortage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers *and* helps us solve the problem of the overall teacher shortage in Minnesota. This legislation will have a positive impact across the whole state of Minnesota and is an important investment in our future.

Sincerely,

Laura Mogelson

MACTE Legislative Liaison