



Tuesday, January 17, 2023

TO: Chair Pryor and House Education Policy Committee Members
RE: HF 320 – Increase Teachers of Color Act

The Minnesota Association of Charter Schools supports HF 320 –Teachers of Color Act and urges passage of the Act as a means of enhancing equity and equitable educational opportunities in all of Minnesota's public schools.

As an Association we believe that:

"Equity requires that we first recognize and eliminate historical barriers to equitable educational opportunities. Second, quality public education requires that the structures, policies, and practices be designed in a manner that recognizes a full spectrum of equitable student outcomes, and the fair and just allocation of resources which enable each student to achieve their individual potential."

We believe that the legislation addresses some of the barriers to equitable educational opportunities.

We believe that the legislation provides a framework for diversifying Minnesota's education workforce to reflect the changing demographics of our state and student population. The provisions to expand the Grow Your Own programs, the Introduction to Teaching post-secondary enrollment courses, and teacher mentoring programs are especially critical to developing and supporting the talents of our para-professional workforce and young people to join the teaching profession.

We believe that the legislation provides a scaffold to build curriculum, and address school climate and the social-emotional needs of students. The provisions to link the World's Best Workforce and strategic plans of schools is especially important as a means of assuring that all of Minnesota's students have an opportunity to learn, understand, and appreciate the people they will work with, and the cultural mosaic of our society.

So, on behalf of the more than 67,000 students who attend Minnesota's chartered public schools, 60% of whom are students of color or indigenous students, and 22% English learners, the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools urges you to enact HF 320.

Sincerely,

Eugene Piccolo
Executive Director