

*The Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color
and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota*



March 13, 2019

Dear Chair Youakim and Members of the House Education Policy Committee,

Please accept this written testimony and strongly consider the highlighted positions with rationales from the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota in response to the following amendments to your omnibus bill HF1711DE.

Thank you.

Paul Spies, PhD

Coalition Legislative Action Team Lead

H1711A5 deletes cultural competency training for Tier3&4 **(OPPOSE)**

- RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING: Ongoing professional development for cultural competence (or cultural humility) should be an expectation of all teachers to ensure inclusive and respectful learning and work environments in schools.

H1711A6 deletes amendments for alternative to skills exams for Tier 4 **(OPPOSE)**

- RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING: This language was vetted and endorsed by dozens of organizations as part of HF824, but only opposed publicly by MN Business Partnership. Skills exams are not a measure of teaching effectiveness.

H1711A10 changes language for Mentorship statute to “must” **(OPPOSE)**

- RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING: While ideally every beginning teacher would have a mentor, this is an unfunded mandate that many organizations who endorsed HF824 would oppose. Unfortunately, there isn't sufficient money in the budget to support mandated mentoring. The language in the bill supports targeted grant funding for mentoring of teachers of color and other teachers in licensure shortage areas.

H1711A24 deletes everything racial **(OPPOSE)**

- RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING: While Rep. Gruenhagen was correct in stating during the hearing on HF824 that race is not a scientific fact, ethnicity is not a substitute or synonym for race, especially in relation to identity. Race and racism are very real social constructions that affect most people on a daily basis whether they are aware or not.

H1711A25 clarifies that districts submit WBWF plans to MDE **(ACCEPT)**

H1711A41 attempts to make some assumed technical and stylistic fixes

Lines 4.19-20 deletes new statute numbers for existing Collaborative Urban and Greater MN Educators of Color Program, existing Grow Your Own program, and new Aspiring Teacher Candidate of Color Scholarship program among the list of state funded programs that must be part of the new accountability report about teachers of color that PELSB is to submit in collaboration with other agencies and stakeholders. **(OPPOSE)**

Similarly, line 4.26-27 deletes reference to new Aspiring Teacher Candidate of Color Scholarship program statute within the Student Teacher Candidate Grant program. **(OPPOSE)**

Amendment also proposes some clarifying language on lines 4.25 and 4.28. **(ACCEPT)**

- RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING: While it is understandable that the proposed amendments on lines 4.19-20 and 4.26-27 address new statutes and they may seem like technical fixes, we have been promised a hearing for HF824 in the Education Finance Division and we expect these programs will be part of the bill laid over for possible inclusion in the Education Finance omnibus bill. Thus, these technical fixes seem premature, and we are concerned they may not be added back due to the complexity of crafting large omnibus bills.

4.18	school."	
4.19	Page 27, line 18, delete " <u>122A.635, 122A.685,</u> "	new CUE and GYO statutes from state TOCAIT report--OPPOSE
4.20	Page 27, line 19, delete " <u>136A.1274,</u> "	new Aspiring Teacher Candidate Scholarship statute from state report--OPPOSE
4.21	Page 37, line 17, delete " <u>Minnesota-approved</u> " and insert " <u>state-approved</u> "	
4.22	Page 43, line 20, delete " <u>to</u> " and insert " <u>and</u> "	
4.23	Page 49, line 17, delete the comma and insert " <u>or</u> "	
4.24	Page 52, line 5, delete the comma and insert " <u>or</u> "	
4.25	Page 62, line 3, after " <u>or</u> " insert " <u>who are</u> "	style change--OK
4.26	Page 62, line 6, delete " <u>the aspiring</u> " and insert " <u>a</u> " and delete " <u>under section 136A.1274</u> "	
4.27	and insert " <u>or other similarly styled program</u> "	deletes new Aspiring Teacher Candidate of Color program reference--OPPOSE
4.28	Page 63, line 26, after " <u>or</u> " insert " <u>who are</u> "	style change--OK

H1711A42 deletes new statute 120B.113 for Inclusive School Grants program that is part of the Increase Teachers of Color Act from the TOCAIT state accountability report **(OPPOSE)**

- RATIONALE FOR OPPOSING: See rationale statement above for H1711A41 lines 4.19-20 and 4.26-27