

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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To whom it may concern:

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) Executive Committee endorses and is proud to be a sponsor for the Increasing Teachers of Color Act 2021 (ITCA 2021). While we work to recruit and prepare new teachers for Minnesota schools, we often hear from PreK-12 students who have never had the opportunity to learn from a teacher of color. In addition, when MACTE members work to place diverse student teachers in school settings, our institutions struggle to find settings where the individual is not the only teacher of color in the building. This is a disservice to all students and future teachers. Therefore, MACTE is supportive of the three goals for the ITCA 2021:

1. Attract and prepare more teachers of color and Native American teachers
2. Increase program completion for teachers of color and Native American teachers
3. Increase retention for teachers of color and Native American teachers during their first years of teaching

MACTE is specifically supportive funding and policy language for these elements of ITCA 2021:

- Equitable school enhancement grant funding
- Creating state goals to increase teachers of color and Native American teachers, including an Outcomes Assessment Report
- Curriculum Policy to prohibit discrimination or discipline for educating about persons from protected classes
- State Model Policy requiring MDE develop resources for creating positive school climates to reduce discrimination
- Changes in Licensure rules and testing to remove barriers for teachers of color and Native American teachers
- Changes to the Collaborative Urban and Greater MN Educators of Color grant program
- Grants for Grow Your Own programs
- Teacher mentorship and retention grants
- Changes to principal evaluation to include culturally responsive skills and practices
- Funding an Aspiring MN Teachers of Color Scholarship Program
- Amendments to the Student Teacher Candidate Grants
- Funding the Teacher Shortage Loan Forgiveness program

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