

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

www.tocaimn.com info@tocaimn.com



February 7, 2023

Dear Chairs and Members of the House Education Policy and Education Finance Committees:

I write to express support for the following bills or bill sections as proposed by PELSBS:

- HF1137 Supporting Heritage Language Educators
This bill will help increase BIPOC teachers, and students' connections with the rich linguistic and cultural traditions of their families and communities.
- HF1138 Teacher Residency Pilot Program **if** HF320 and HF381 that make up the Increase Teachers of Color Act are fully funded, including appropriations for GYO programs that have designated funding for residencies.
- HF1257 Removing Barrier to Licensure, Sec. 10, Subd. 1
Lines 7.19-7.22: "An applicant is exempt from the examination requirements if the applicant completed:
(1) a board-approved teacher preparation program; or
(2) a state-approved teacher preparation program in another state and passed licensure examinations in that state, if applicable."

Licensure exams have kept thousands of effective BIPOC teachers and white teachers out of classrooms and unable to earn Tier 3 licensure. There is no predictive validity that shows passing the exams ensures effective teaching, and plenty of evidence of effective Tier 2 teachers who completed programs without passing exams. These amendments like HF320 retains high standards but eliminates meaningless barriers. All candidates who complete preparation programs Minnesota meet rigorous standards and complete a rigorous performance assessment called the edTPA.

- HF1257 Removing Barrier to Licensure, Sec. 13 & 14, amending 122A.635
These changes to CUGMEC grant administration and reporting are part of more comprehensive amendments to the grant program included in HF320.
- HF1268 Operational Excellence, Sec. 5. amending 122A.06, subdivision 6
It is important that the severe and persistent shortage teachers of color and American Indian teachers be acknowledged as a shortage area.

Other bills proposed by PELSBS and other sections of the bills stated above either do not have consensus agreement or disagreement among Coalition members or are not directly relevant to the mission of the Coalition.

Thank you for your support of these reasonable proposals that will help increase BIPOC teachers in Minnesota.

Paul Spies, PhD

Legislative Action Team Lead

[Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in MN](http://www.tocaimn.com)