



Date: January 26, 2021

To: The House Education Policy Committee and House Education Finance Committee

CC: Committee Administrators

From: Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers

RE: Increase Teachers of Color Act (H.F. 217)

Dear Representatives,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers (MACSA) in support of the Increase Teachers of Color Act (H.F. 217).

MACSA is an organization made up of thirteen charter school authorizers from across the state, committed to advancing the primary purpose of Minnesota's charter schools: improve all pupil learning and all student achievement. Research shows that teachers of color help close opportunity gaps for students of color and white students—a fact that is more relevant in light of data released from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP results show that, “teachers of color boost the academic performance of students of color, including improved reading and math test scores, improved graduation rates, and increases in aspirations to attend college.”¹

MACSA is committed to its mission to increase the quality of charter-school authorizing in Minnesota by developing and identifying practices and policies that ensure effective oversight and evaluation of those charter schools. It is clear that policies aimed at increasing the representation of teachers of color in our schools will greatly benefit all students throughout Minnesota for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Larry McKenzie

Chair, MACSA

Alul Yesak

Director, MACSA

¹ Carver-Thomas, D. (2018). *Diversifying the teaching profession: How to recruit and retain teachers of color*. Palo Alto, CA: Learning Policy Institute.