

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

www.tocaimn.com info@tocaimn.com



February 23, 2021

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

Given these historic, troubling times with major racial, health and economic crises that have and will negatively impact most students and educators, there is an even more urgent need to address systemic racial and ethnic inequities in education that have been ignored for too long. You heard powerful testimony from students and teachers for the Increase Teachers of Color Act (HF217) in your committee on January 27th, and the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota is pleased to see that the Governor's policy bill HF950 has adopted language in the following sections that is in or is closely aligned with proposals in HF217.

ARTICLE 3 INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING SCHOOLS

- Sec. 22. [124D.792] Requiring districts allow American Indian students to wear tribal regalia at graduation

ARTICLE 4 HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Sec. 3 MDE providing resources to districts for positive school climate

ARTICLE 5 TEACHERS

- Sect. 1-3 World's Best Workforce
- Sect. 4 State Goal to Increase TOCAIT and aggregate outcomes report
- Sec. 5 [120B.25] CURRICULUM POLICY to prohibit discrimination
- Sec. 10 & 11 Requiring evaluation of culturally responsive teaching practices
- Sec. 12 Requiring principal evaluation include culturally responsive leadership skills
- Sec. 13 Amendments to Achievement & Integration Program

As part of the Increase Teachers of Color Act, these proposals have garnered endorsement from a wide range of 55 councils and organizations. They are crucial for closing Minnesota's opportunity and achievement gaps that are among the worst in the nation, and they will address barriers to attracting and retaining BIPOC youth and adults in the teaching profession.

Sincerely,

Paul Spies, PhD

Coalition Legislative Action Team Lead