



January 25, 2021

Representative Ruth Richardson
Chair, House Education Policy Committee
403 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Richardson and members for the House Education Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Head Start Association, I am writing to express our support for [HF217](#), a bill to strengthen and expand the Teachers of Color Act.

Head Start programs work hard to cultivate a diverse staff with early childhood degrees (both BA and AA) as well as recruit interested parents who reflect the backgrounds of the children we serve. There is currently a shortage of degree-qualified early childhood professionals and it is a priority for MHSA that our programs can hire a qualified, well-trained, and culturally diverse early childhood workforce. This is essential for Head Start programs to be able to serve our diverse families.

The Teachers of Color Act will allow us to enhance our work and we thank Rep. Hassan for her advancement of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Kraig Gratke

Kraig Gratke
Executive Director
MN Head Start Association