



March 7, 2022

Representative Ruth Richardson, Chair, House Education Policy Committee
Members of the House Education Policy Committee

RE: HF 3554

Chair Richardson & Members,

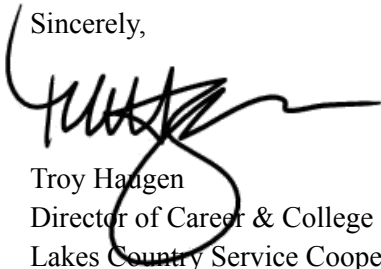
As a collective of current alternative teacher preparation providers established under MS §122A.2451, we write in full support of HF 3554, which will make minor revisions to the Alternative Teacher Preparation Grant Program (ATPGP), and ultimately provides a sustained source of funding to further grow and expand teacher preparation programs in Minnesota to meet the current needs of Minnesota’s students and schools.

Each of our represented organizations were recipients of the first round of ATPGP funding in 2018. Born from that original investment were our four teacher preparation units, and twelve teacher preparation programs in high-demand licensure areas of special education and career & technical education. Without that initial investment, our high-quality teacher preparation programs may not have been able to launch to serve candidates, and ultimately students, across Minnesota.

Alternative teacher preparation provides pathways for teacher candidates that supplement those offered by traditional pathways. We do not replace traditional pathways, we offer additional options for candidates they are unable to serve, whether due to cost, time, or other reasons. Our alternative teacher preparation pathways offer high-quality, affordable licensure program options for diverse teacher candidates that result in better outcomes for all students and families. There is certainly space for all types of programs, which is continuing to prove true as the needs of the workforce widen.

Please support HF 3554 - our students need high-quality teachers in every classroom, and, in Minnesota that means we need to offer teacher candidates a variety of pathways. The ATPGP is a significant factor in making that happen..

Sincerely,

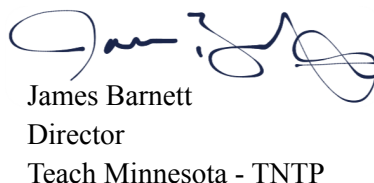


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