

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

March 24, 2022

Dear Chair Richardson and House Education Policy Committee Members,

The Minnesota Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (MACTE) is supportive of proposed policies from the Increase Teachers of Color Act (HF3079) in the proposed omnibus policy bill HF3401DE. This legislation represents necessary work to strengthen existing programs and to create new efforts needed to attract, prepare, license and retain an increased percentage of BIPOC teachers.

We support policy changes to the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color grant program (CUGMEC) in response to the OLA audit. We support the language in the bill that clarifies selection and reporting criteria. This legislation is vitally important in recruiting and providing direct financial and programmatic support.

We support increases to the Grow Your Own grant program. This grant program has seen a huge expansion of interest in the past few years and relies on continued and expanded funding.

We support eliminating content and pedagogy licensure exams for completers of MN preparation programs. These tests have kept thousands of competent white and BIPOC teachers from becoming Tier 3 teachers.

We strongly support increasing the diversity of Minnesota's teaching force through strategies to recruit, support, prepare, and retain teachers of color, including provisions in this bill that reduce barriers for candidates to become teachers. Only comprehensive and bold work is going to make a difference.

Sincerely,
Laura Mogelson
MACTE Legislative Liaison