

February 14, 2023

Dear Senate Education Finance Committee Members:

On behalf of our 18 member institutions, the Minnesota Private College Council (Council) strongly supports SF 619, the 2023 Increase Teachers of Color Act. We appreciate Senator Kunesh chief-authoring this important legislation.

As a member of the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers, the Council strongly supports critical investments in programs like the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators Grant (CUGMEC), the Grow Your Own Program and the Teacher Mentorship Grant. These programs are crucial to recruit, license and retain teachers of color and Native American teachers in Minnesota.

Fifteen of the Council's 18 member institutions have teacher preparation programs with all 15 awarding bachelor's degrees in education and 10 awarding master's degrees.

The Council also supports the proposed CUGMEC policy language moving the grant cycle from one to two years and changing the reporting date. Moving the grant cycle to two years will provide stability in funding for teacher candidates who are grant recipients and provide programmatic certainty for colleges and universities who participate in the program.

We all need to do more to increase the number of students of color and Native American students who pursue a career of service as educators. Please support the Increase Teachers of Color Act.

Sincerely,



Paul Cerkenik
President