

Gloria Rosa Mendizabal Campoverde
236 Penn Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55405
March, 11th, 2024

The Honorable Senators Cwodzinski and Kunesh
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.,
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Support of Senate File 4107

Dear Senators Cwodzinski and Kunesh and members of the committee,

My name is Gloria Rosa Mendizabal Campoverde. I am an elementary school teacher who currently works as a Kindergarten teacher at Emerson Dual Language Elementary School, which belongs to Minneapolis Public Schools. I was born and raised in Peru and I moved to this country ten years ago. In 2020, I decided to pursue further education in graduate school and I started the Master in Education program at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, in the Dual Language Immersion and Licensure Program (K-6), where I graduated in May, 2022.

In fact, I could study mainly for the economic support I received through the scholarships given to me by the program for being a candidate teacher of color and for working at that moment in an urban education school teaching in Spanish, serving students from a minority group such as the hispanic-latino community. Despite the fact that I was working at a school as an Associate Educator at the same time I was studying in graduate school, it would not have been possible for me to afford tuition, books and my own expenses with my low income. Therefore, the scholarship I received was critical and absolutely necessary back then, because the demands of a graduate school required me to focus on my classwork and study full time.

Hence, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity that University of Minnesota gave to me offering me the scholarship which helped me to keep studying and working for

Minneapolis Public Schools, first as an assistant teacher and now as a homeroom teacher, sharing the academic knowledge I acquired with the students who needed it the most.

Thus, I am writing to express my support of the Senate File 4107, the following programs and requests:

- Support the re-investment and creation of the Minnesota Aspiring Teachers of Color scholarship program.
- Support increases in funding to the Minnesota Underrepresented Student Teacher grant program.
- Support increases in funding to the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color grant program.

To sum up, I encourage you to work with your colleagues and do all you can to pass this bill in order to assure future funding for teachers of color who belong to underrepresented communities and who are going to dedicate their teaching practices to the students who need it most in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Gloria Rosa Mendizabal Campoverde
University of Minnesota alumna