

April 15, 2024

Dear Senate Education Finance Committee Members:

On behalf of our 18 member institutions, the Minnesota Private College Council (Council) strongly supports the Senate's proposed investments to support and retain teachers of color.

As a member of the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers, the Council advocates for critical investments to recruit, license and retain teachers of color and Native American teachers in Minnesota. Building off last year's work, the Council is grateful to see increased investments of \$1 million for the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Grant Program, and \$5 million for mentoring and retention of teachers of color and American Indian teachers.

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.

As you make decisions about important investments needed in education, thank you for prioritizing future educators.

Sincerely,



Alison Groebner

Director Of Government and Community Relations