

April 2, 2024

Dear Senate Higher Education Finance Committee Members:

On behalf of our 18 member institutions, the Minnesota Private College Council (Council) strongly supports SF 4107, the 2024 Increase Teachers of Color Act. We appreciate Senator Kunesh chief-authoring this legislation.

As a member of the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers, the Council continues to advocate 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 supports SF 4107 with increased investments of \$1 million for the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Grant Program, \$10 million for the Aspiring Minnesota Teachers of Color Scholarship 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.

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,



Alison Groebner

Director Of Government and Community Relations