

## **Support for SF3128 - 2025 Increase Teachers of Color Act**

Dear Ms. Zellmer,

We hope this message finds you well.

We are a group of individual members of the Chinese Language Teacher Association Minnesota (CLTAMN). We are writing to express our strong support for SF3128 (Sen. Kunesh) / HF (#TBD) (Rep. Clardy), the 2025 Increase Teachers of Color Act, which is scheduled for a hearing on Wednesday, April 2, at 8:30 AM in the Senate Education Finance Committee.

This legislative session has been challenging, with many bills vying for attention. We are thrilled that SF3128 has been officially introduced and will be discussed in the upcoming hearing. This bill builds upon the historic achievements of the 2023 session by focusing on the establishment of the Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Program in statute. It calls for a \$10 million investment of surplus funds to support approximately 1,000 scholarships for each of the next two fiscal years. Additionally, the bill renews funding for the Closing Education Opportunity Gap grants to schools and makes important amendments to the Collaborative Urban and Greater MN Educators of Color grant program.

The 2025 Increase Teachers of Color Act is crucial for addressing the opportunity gaps in our education system and ensuring that our teaching workforce better reflects the diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds of Minnesota's students. By investing in these programs, we can make significant strides towards achieving the state's goal of increasing the percentage of BIPOC teachers by at least 2 percentage points annually, ultimately reflecting the diversity of our student population by 2040.

We urge the committee to support this important legislation and help us continue our progress in diversifying our teaching workforce and closing educational opportunity gaps.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Peng Liu Nelson (elementary education supervisor, CLTAMN board), Changying Larson (secondary teacher, CLTAMN board), Ming Yu (elementary teacher), Congyu Zhang (immersion teacher), Ju-Chang Wang (retired teacher/school district teacher trainer), Shu Zhou/Melody Zhou (weekend school administrator), Qian Xu (secondary teacher, CLTAMN board), Ergan Xu (secondary teacher and associate weekend school director), Xinyue Zong (elementary teacher, CLTAMN board), Jin Wu (high school teacher)