

**MACTE Weekly Legislative Update, 1.27.19**  
**Prepared by Cyndy Crist, MACTE Legislative and Policy Liaison**

**Quiet Week at Legislature.** In the area of education, things were relatively quiet this past week at the capitol. Committees in the House and Senate continued to focus primarily on informational presentations. Kevin Mackin, Laura Mogelson, and I had a chance to introduce ourselves to the members of the House Education Policy Committee and to share our MACTE priorities. There was little time for questions, although Representative Dean Urdahl did ask what we saw as the primary ways to address teacher shortages and asked that we find a time to meet with him to discuss this further.

**Coalition Work Evolving.** Since I believe that folks on most or all of your campuses are connected to the work of the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota, I tend not to report on their work in detail in these updates. It seems important, however, to note that some of the elements of their draft bill which we shared with you earlier, along with the survey seeking your input on the legislation, appear unlikely to be included in bills in either the House or the Senate. In the House, key leaders have asked for a bill that removes references to teacher shortages from the language, though as Paul Spies has pointed out, the emerging legislative provisions would still address the shortages of teachers of color. In the Senate, leadership has shaped a new bill with few of the provisions included in the Coalition's draft. To follow these and other developments, you may wish to visit the Coalition's website at [www.tocaimn.com](http://www.tocaimn.com).

**Reading Bills.** With the introduction of additional bills addressing dyslexia and a hearing on 1.28.19 on reading, it seems increasingly likely that this will be a focus of legislative action in 2019. I invite you again to let me know who on your campuses has expertise in and could potentially testify about reading instruction, including dyslexia. It will be critical to be able to offer input about bills with the potential to add to or change requirements for teacher licensure.

**Connecting with Legislators.** I want to encourage you to find ways to connect with your local legislators when possible. Most return home to their districts every weekend and convene constituent meetings or town halls or offer other opportunities to connect with interested voters. You can use the priorities document shared with you last week as well as providing factual information about the needs of your students, faculty, and programs and the challenges you are facing. Success at achieving our goals can be improved by having relationships in place so that when an "ask" is in order, legislators have some familiarity with the person making a request. Keep in mind that it is to their advantage to know what issues are important to their constituents and to understand the impact of their actions. Contact information for all members can be found on the legislative website, [www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us).