MCLA’S 2022

LEGISLATIVE AND
POLICY PRIORITIES
The legislative and policy focus areas for the Council continue to be: 1. Diversifying the workforce with qualified teachers that resemble the school population, including a pedagogy that reflects the racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds of all students; 2. Implementing and securing an equitable access to alternative methods of instruction, particularly distance learning technologies and outreach to families; 3. Ensuring effective supports for English Language Learners; and 4. Increasing Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) awareness and adequate information.

**LEgislATION**

**Policy provisions in the 2022 Increase Teachers of Color Act (ITCA)**

As part of the Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers legislation, we hope to pass a provision that requires districts and charter schools to provide for a welcoming environment and a respectful and inclusive curriculum for all in their strategic plans. Other provisions that need to be included are the creation of State goals to increase TOCAIT by 2040 and accompanying report, and requirements for teacher licensing exams for Tier 3 & Tier 4. Amendments to the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color Grant Program are also included in this new iteration of the bill.

**English Language Learners** Advocate for improved classroom experiences (virtual and in person) and more funding in English Language Learners (ELL) programming.

**POLICY**

Among other topics, the following are some areas of on-going conversations with MDE:

1. **English Learners**: addressing challenges and increasing graduation rates among EL students

2. **Innovative alternative methods of instruction**: distance learning and social emotional learning

3. **Invest and encourage increased participation in Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)**
Hair Practitioner License
Since 2020, MCLA has been working with Latina constituents affected by over regulation to operate their business, particularly for estheticians who only want to cut hair. They assert that having a Hair Practitioner License (hair-only license) will significantly help them become licensed, operate, and work under state regulations. In 2021, MCLA worked in a more comprehensive bill but for 2022, the approach will be to focus on the hair-only license.

Veterans
Ensure that Latino veterans have access to all applicable tax benefits in the state. One of these benefits would be not taxing social security payments for veterans. Since 2019, a group of Latino Veterans met with staff and they identified this as the most critical issue for them since, for some, this is a big part of their income.

Consumer Protection
3.1. Car prices displayed or available. A constituent working on consumers protection came to the Council two years ago with a concern that small car dealerships are taking advantage of Latinx clients, by changing the prices of used vehicles based on people’s credit and income. This practice is unfair and has been penalized by the Attorney General’s Office. This proposal would require that the price of a used vehicle for sale be available to the public in a clear and visible format.

3.2. Single Language Transaction bill. This bill would require that when the transaction for the purchase of a vehicle with a car dealership starts in one language, finishes the transaction in that same language. Many non-English speaker clients end up signing contracts in English and are unaware of additional information not discussed during the oral transaction.

Supplemental Budget and American Recovery Plan Funding
With the negotiations for the supplemental budget expected to be held in 2022 and $1.150 Billion in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, there is an opportunity to support and invest in equitable funds for Latinx communities in priority areas such as support of immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequitable impact of the pandemic.
MCLA is committed to joining with others to remove barriers to access affordable and quality health care and to provide services that are culturally and linguistically relevant. This is crucial for Latino families and children for their overall wellbeing, physically and mentally. Although Minnesota ranked third in the Commonwealth Fund’s most recent Scorecard on Health System Performance, significant disparities are still present: the uninsured rate among Minnesota Latinos (17%) is more than three times the state’s overall uninsured rate (5%).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, essential Latino workers have kept the economy going; however, they have paid a high price, being 1.6 times more likely to get the COVID-19 virus, 2.5 times more likely to be hospitalized, and twice as likely to die from the virus, compared to white, non-Hispanic people.

MCLA supports the petition of immigrant led organizations requesting the expansion of health care coverage for individual and families living in Minnesota, regardless of immigration status, including investing $50 million over two years for additional health care coverage and pandemic disaster relief assistance for undocumented Minnesotans.

MCLA also supports the Alzheimer’s Public Information Bill (SF178) sponsored by the Minnesota Alzheimer’s Association. This bill have the potential to benefit Latinx communities’ awareness and early interventions. The bill establishes an Alzheimer’s public information program, in order to make publicly available materials with relevant cultural and linguistic information to promote the benefits of early detection and importance of discussing cognition with a health care provider.

Support the community’s efforts to re-instate access to a MN Driver’s License to all drivers regardless of immigration status. This has been a paramount issue for Latinos in Minnesota and we will continue to support this bill while recognizing the leadership of community leaders and allies directly advocating for it.
ADVISE AND INFORM
ON LEGISLATION
AND POLICY WITH
LATINO
MINNESOTANS

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