

# Education Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-274  
AN ACT CONCERNING MINORITY TEACHER RECRUITMENT AND  
**Title:** RETENTION.  
**Vote Date:** 3/25/2022  
**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute  
**PH Date:** 3/21/2022  
**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Michael A. Winkler, 56th Dist.  
Rep. Anthony L. Nolan, 39th Dist.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill renames the Taskforce re minority teacher recruitment, preparation, and retention the Task Force to Diversify the Educator Workforce and makes other conforming changes.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **[Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker, State Dept. of Education](#)**

"The Department supports this proposal and is wholeheartedly committed to our minority teacher recruitment and retention (MTRR) efforts. We have worked hand in hand with legislators for several sessions to pass legislation aimed at achieving meaningful gains in this area."

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **[Connecticut Association of Boards of Education](#)**

"CABE supports SB 274, An Act Concerning Minority Teacher Recruitment and Retention, which would require the existing task force to study and evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of existing minority teacher recruitment and retention programs and policies. The lack of minority representation in public schools is an issue of concern to all districts in Connecticut. We want our students to have the opportunity to learn from educators from a variety of backgrounds, races, and cultures."

### **[Katie Dias, President, Connecticut Education Association](#)**

"CEA supports the development and submission of the report required in SB 274. However, we believe the language could more directly ensure input by educators by requiring that the Minority Teacher Recruitment Task Force include input from the Minority Teacher Policy Oversight Council and input from current educators actively recruited for participation in focus groups and through an opportunity for public comment."

**Stephen Hegdus, President, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education**

"The AACTE-CT supports this legislation and its goals of recruiting and retaining teachers of color to help ensure that Connecticut's educator workforce aligns with the students in the school systems in which they teach. While Connecticut has made strides in the past several 2 years, we need to continue to make gains and improvements so that all of our students in our school districts are being taught by people who represent the composition of the classroom."

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Subira Gordon, Executive Director, ConnCAN**

"Senate Bill 274 contains important mechanisms for studying and evaluating the quality of our collective efforts on diversifying the educator workforce. ConnCAN believes that measurement and evaluation are essential for high-quality programming, and for strategic planning. 2 However, we are at a crossroads for diversifying the educator workforce. We must do more to ensure that our student and teacher populations match one another. Only then, can we be assured that our education system is adequately preparing all students for the diversity of the real world."

All other testimony on SB-274 can be found on the [CGA website](#).

**Reported by: Jessica Bucci**

**Date: 3/28/22**