

October 27, 1997

Mr. Donald J. McCallion
454 Water Street
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

Dear Donald:

Thank you for your warm words of support. I deeply appreciate your commitment to my Administration's teacher initiative, and I am pleased to know of your efforts in Massachusetts to recruit, mentor, and train minorities to become teachers.

Like you, I believe we must work to address America's critical need for a more racially diverse teaching force. Although one-third of our students are minorities, only 13 percent of our teachers represent minorities. Our initiative places special emphasis on recruiting minorities: it includes teaching fellowships to help talented people from all backgrounds teach in schools in high-poverty areas, and it offers support for institutions of higher education to strengthen preparation of future teachers, especially for positions in such schools.

We know that students in distressed areas often have teachers who have had the least preparation. So our proposal focuses not only on training future teachers well, but also improving the quality of teaching in those schools.

Again, I value your support in this effort. I have shared your letter with my staff in the Domestic Policy Council and with officials at the Department of Education. I look forward to your continued involvement.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON

BC/LIJ/RSM/DWB/emu-pw-lynn (Corres. #3682732)
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WHcc:
The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Education
Washington, D.C. 20202

cc: Bill Kincaid, 220