

**Testimony Concerning SB 533
Education-Teacher Certification-Montessori Schools
Submitted to Education Health and Environmental Affairs
February 18, 2020**

Position: Support

Good afternoon. My name is Dr. Rebecca Pelton, and I am the president of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, MACTE.

MACTE is an accreditor dedicated to improving and assuring the quality of academic degree and credentialing programs for Montessori professional educators – those who teach and lead in schools, Infant and Toddler through Secondary II.

MACTE is the only nationally recognized educational accreditor by the US Department of Education (USDE). Our scope of recognition under the USDE covers the accreditation of free-standing Montessori institutions, and programs within colleges and universities throughout the United States, including those offered via distance education with the stipulation of 120 hours of face-to-face residency. MACTE does not accredit one hundred percent online teacher education programs.

I am here today to support Maryland's SB 533 and HB 1344, recognition of a credential from a MACTE accredited Montessori teacher education program for state licensure to teach in the public or private Montessori schools of Maryland. The passing of this bill will create significant opportunities for Maryland's Montessori teachers and for the children of the state. I want to stress the importance of the accreditation process in ensuring the development of quality teachers.

MACTE's accreditation process starts with the evidence, quantitative and/or qualitative, the faculty truly relies on to convince themselves that the graduates are competent Montessori professionals. The program writes a *Self-Study*, which makes the case that the claims the program makes about its graduates are warranted. MACTE's three day on-site visit verifies that the evidence cited in the *Self-Study* is accurate and trustworthy and that the program/institution is committed to the certification course level program. MACTE's Board determines if the evidence is convincing and of sufficient magnitude to support the program's claims that its graduates are competent, caring, and qualified Montessori teachers.

If you will please refer to the graphic demonstrating the relationship between MACTE as the accreditor and the various Montessori affiliates who have teacher education programs accredited by MACTE. For this piece of legislation it is the assurance of accreditation that is most important.

MACTE has reviewed the requirements for a Maryland teaching certificate and has noted that requirements for a credential from a MACTE accredited teacher education program are of equal rigor.

We want to thank you for your consideration and are hopeful you will consider this bill as a step towards assuring quality education for Maryland's children. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Rebecca Pelton
President of the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE)

US Department of Education (USDE)

Council for the Accreditation of Higher Education (CHEA)

MACTE is the only Educational accreditor nationally recognized by the US Department of Education for Montessori Teacher Education Programs/Institutions

MACTE is a member of the Council for the Accreditation of Higher Education and applying for CHEA recognition 2019

https://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg7.html#ed

Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE)

MACTE Affiliates

Association Montessori International (AMI)

American Montessori Society (AMS)
mandates MACTE accreditation

International Association of Progressive Montessori (IAPM)

International Montessori Council (IMC)

Christian Montessori Fellowship (CMF)

Montessori Educational Programs International (MEPI)

Montessori Institute of America (MIA)

Pan American Montessori Society (PAMS)

Independent Montessori Programs not in a Consortium (IND)