



2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 26

April 4, 2005 – Introduced by Representative COLON, cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER. Referred to Committee on Rules.

1 **Relating to:** commending Ignacio Contreras' courage and determination to
2 overcome the challenges as he faces, most notably his fight against cancer.

3 Whereas, Ignacio Contreras, is a 12-year-old boy that endures the challenges
4 of his new life in the United States as a bilingual student; and

5 Whereas, Ignacio came to the United States with his family in the year 2000
6 and is living with his parents, Carlos and Margarita, and his 3 brothers, Carlos Jr.,
7 Alejandro, and Richard, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and

8 Whereas, Ignacio's father, Carlos Contreras, works in construction to support
9 his family, who has little medical insurance and struggles financially; and

10 Whereas, Ignacio is currently attending Vieau School, a Milwaukee Public
11 School; and

12 Whereas, Ignacio was faced with his first challenge of having to learn a
13 language and he was determined to overcome it, by becoming bilingual within a year
14 and one-half; and

1 Whereas, Ignacio quickly gained confidence in English; he entered and won a
2 Christmas card contest for the Milwaukee Brewers baseball team in 2002, and his
3 design was used for its annual Christmas card; and

4 Whereas, in September 2004, Ignacio was faced with his most difficult
5 challenge; he was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease, a form of cancer; and

6 Whereas, Ignacio soon began chemotherapy, then radiation, and, during the
7 treatment and procedures, Ignacio, at times, translated between the doctors and his
8 parents; and

9 Whereas, this experience became the basis for an essay contest Ignacio wrote
10 for the National Association of Bilingual Education; and

11 Whereas, Ignacio’s essay, which stressed the importance of being bilingual and
12 the opportunities that were opened up for being able to speak 2 languages, won him
13 first place in the middle school contest; and

14 Whereas, Ignacio was flown to San Antonio, Texas, in January with his mother,
15 Margarita, and bilingual teacher, Ms. Gloria Franco, to receive his national award
16 of \$1,500 for educational supplies and materials; and

17 Whereas, Ignacio began his next phase of treatment of radiation after he
18 returned from receiving his award; now, therefore, be it

19 ***Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That*** the members of the
20 Wisconsin legislature commend Ignacio’s courage and determination to overcome
21 the challenges as he faces, most notably his fight against cancer; and, be it further

22 ***Resolved, That*** the assembly chief clerk shall provide copies of this joint
23 resolution to Ignacio’s father and mother, Carlos and Margarita Contreras.

24

(END)