

## 2005 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 26

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)