



Amy Loudenbeck

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 31ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Testimony before Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities

Assembly Bill 51

Rep. Amy Loudenbeck

March 28, 2019

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and committee members for the opportunity to testify in favor of Assembly Bill 51. This bill will expand the Wisconsin Minority Teacher Loan Program which is administered by the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB) to allow for a minority teacher who works in a Wisconsin school district in which minority students constitute at least 40% of the membership to be eligible to apply for loan forgiveness.

By expanding this program, we provide an opportunity for teachers in several other areas of the state to be eligible for this program.

Schools across Wisconsin are trying to close the achievement gap between white and non-white students and research indicates that hiring teachers of color can help close achievement gaps. This isn't a new program or a new appropriation, the bill would simply allow qualifying schools outside of the City of Milwaukee to benefit from this program

The current program is limited to public and private schools in the City of Milwaukee and the program is woefully underutilized. In February of 2018, HEAB requested authority to transfer nearly \$50,000 out of this program to cover expenses in another HEAB program. The request was sent to JFC for approval which is how I became aware of the limitations on the current program and decided to look at ways it could be improved.

Thank you for your time today, I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.



DALE KOOYENGA
STATE SENATOR · 5TH DISTRICT

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March 28, 2019

TO: Members of the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee

FROM: Senator Dale Kooyenga

RE: Support for AB 51 changes to the minority teacher loan program

Thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 51. This bill will expand the Wisconsin Minority Teacher Loan Program to allow for a minority teacher who works in a Wisconsin school district in which minority students constitute at least 40% of the membership to be eligible to apply for loan forgiveness.

The current program is limited to schools in the City of Milwaukee. Right now, the program is underutilized.

Expanding this program will provide an opportunity for teachers in several other areas of the state to be eligible for the program. I believe that this can be used as a hiring or retention tool for districts.

Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Bill 51 adds tribal schools to the bill. This amendment is at the request of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

Thank you for hearing this bill. I respectfully ask for your support.