



Amy Loudenbeck

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S 31ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**Press Release
For Immediate Release**

March 5, 2019

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Bill Introduced to Expand Minority Teacher Loan Program

Madison – This week, Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton), Rep. Jason Fields (D-Milwaukee) and Sen. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) introduced Assembly Bill 51 (AB51) and Senate Bill 55 (SB55) that would expand the existing Wisconsin Minority Teacher Loan Program which is administered by the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB).

AB 51/SB 55 would allow a minority teacher who works in a public or private school in a Wisconsin school district in which minority students constitute at least 40% of the membership to be eligible to apply for student loan forgiveness. The current program is limited to schools in the City of Milwaukee and the program is underutilized.

“This bill is an example of what expanding access and opportunity can do for our great state. When we come together, Wisconsin grows stronger,” said Rep. Fields.

“By expanding this program, we provide an opportunity for teachers in other areas of the state to be eligible for this program. I believe the Minority Teacher Loan Program can be an important hiring or retention tool for school districts,” said Sen. Kooyenga

“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 for students of color. This isn't a new program or a new appropriation, the bill would allow qualifying schools outside of the City of Milwaukee to benefit from this program,” said Rep. Loudenbeck.

The bill has several co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle, and has been referred to committee and are awaiting public hearings.

HEAB's informational paper includes eligibility, forgiveness criteria and loan repayment:
<http://heab.state.wi.us/docs/programs/mtl-flyer.pdf>

See the [Bill Draft](#) and [Co-Sponsor Memo](#)

Read the bill language here: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/proposals/reg/asm/bill/ab51>

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