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STATE SENATOR

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Sen. Larson Announces the “Focus on Teaching Act”

Milwaukee, WI – Today, Senator Chris Larson along with Senator LaTonya Johnson and Representative Sondy Pope announced legislation that would pay student teachers a living wage for their labor.

“At a time when we are experiencing a teacher shortage due to the profession being demonized by elected Republicans, we should be doing all that we can to ensure we are cultivating the next generation of educators here at home. Instead of incentivizing retired teachers to begin working again, we should be investing in our future and our future educators. This investment will not just encourage those going into education to stay in Wisconsin, it is also just the right thing to do.

“If you are working a job, whether it is part of your education or not, you should get paid. For too long we have required those seeking their degrees in education to give their labor away for free in order to become a licensed teacher in Wisconsin — this is simply unfair. We are proud to announce the circulation of legislation that would pay all student teachers in Wisconsin \$15 an hour.

“These are students in their last semester of their teaching programs, they are paying tuition and fees, and often are working outside jobs to make ends meet. We can alleviate that stress and do the right thing by paying these dedicated students for their labor. Nobody should be required to work for free. Aspiring educators must fulfill 720 hours of student teaching, that’s \$10,800 in lost wages.”

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