



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

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## **Bill to Expand Minority Teacher Loan Program Signed Into Law**

**Madison** – Today, Governor Tony Evers signed Assembly Bill 51 (AB-51) authored by Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton), Rep. Jason Fields (D-Milwaukee) and Sen. Dale Kooyenga (R-Brookfield) to expand the existing Wisconsin Minority Teacher Loan Program which is administered by the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB).

AB-51 would allow a minority teacher who works in a public, private, or tribal 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.

“Recent reports show that Wisconsin’s achievement gap continues to be one of the worst in the nation. The lack of attention being brought to the issue is appalling. Instead of defending the status quo and sending generations of students into the world unprepared, we can do something about it. Increasing the number of teachers of color proves to reduce the disparity between students, and passing this bill is a small step toward closing this gap,” 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,” said Rep. Loudenbeck. “I am proud to be part of this bipartisan approach to improving student outcomes and closing the achievement gap.”

For more information about the program: <http://heab.state.wi.us/docs/programs/mtl-flyer.pdf>

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