



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

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## **Bill to Expand Minority Teacher Loan Program Passes Assembly**

**Madison** – Today, the Wisconsin State Assembly unanimously passed 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.

“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, our bill would simply allow qualifying schools outside of the City of Milwaukee to benefit from this program,” said Rep. Loudenbeck.

The bill will now head to the Senate for a vote.

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

More Information on the bill: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2019/proposals/reg/asm/bill/ab51>

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