

TO: All Legislators  
FROM: Representative JoCasta Zamarripa, Senator Tim Carpenter  
DATE: Tuesday, November 21, 2017  
RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB 4882/1 relating to: funding for bilingual-bicultural education programs and making an appropriation.

Subchapter VII of Chapter 115 of Wisconsin State Statutes governs the state's bilingual-bicultural education program and requires school districts to establish a program if they meet a certain threshold of English Learner (EL) pupils within their district. As stated in the declaration of policy found in subchapter VII, "it is the policy of this state to provide equal educational opportunities by ensuring that necessary programs are available for limited-English proficient pupils while allowing each school district maximum flexibility in establishing programs suited to its particular needs."

In short, the bilingual-bicultural education program provides elementary and secondary school children with limited or non-existent English speaking ability the opportunity to stay academically on pace with their English speaking peers while teaching all pupils respect for non-English languages and cultures. Additionally, the ultimate objective of the program is to eventually bring these non-English speaking pupils up to a proficient level in any given course using the English language to ensure that the pupil will be able to participate fully in a society whose language is English.

The bilingual-bicultural education program is a valuable tool for school districts and promotes a strong understanding of the English language for all Wisconsin pupils at a relatively young age. It is time the state invests more resources into this valuable program and eases the burden of local school districts in their attempt to run this useful program.

***If you would like to co-sponsor LRB 4882/1, please contact my office at 267-7669 or respond to this email by Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017.***

***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill provides additional funding to the Department of Public Instruction for bilingual-bicultural education programs in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 fiscal years. A bilingual-bicultural education program is a program designed to improve the ability of limited-English proficient pupils to speak, read, and write in the English language, so that the pupils will be able to perform classwork in English.