

TO: All Legislators

**FROM: Senators Dale Kooyenga & Alberta Darling
Representatives Jessie Rodriguez & David Steffen**

DATE: May 8, 2019

**RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB 2754/1 and LRB 3160/1 – relating to funding for
Wisconsin Reading Corps**

DEADLINE: Wednesday, May 15, 2019

In 2011, the Governor's Read to Lead taskforce recommended the "creation of a public-private partnership to engage Wisconsin philanthropies and businesses around the goal of ensuring every child can read by the end of 3rd grade." The task force urged that Wisconsin replicate the Minnesota Reading Corps program. Today, Wisconsin Reading Corps is in its fourth year of operation and is providing tutoring for 28 choice, charter and public schools located in Milwaukee, Racine and Watertown.

Not only does Reading Corps accelerate student growth, but it also saves money. Reading Corps students are three times less likely to be referred to special education, saving school districts millions of dollars on an annual basis.

Nationally, Reading Corps was one of four programs recognized by the 2017 Library of Congress Literacy Awards as a best practice in the area of tutoring and instruction.

This bill requires the state superintendent to continue annually making the distribution to Wisconsin Reading Corps and increases the amounts appropriated to \$1,000,000 in the 2019-20 school year and \$2,000,000 in the 2020-21 school year.

The bill also changes the purpose of the distribution from providing "one-on-one tutoring" to providing "evidence-based instruction." It also creates a requirement that Wisconsin Reading Corps submit a biennial report on the effectiveness of the instructional programs.

If you would like to co-sponsor these bills, please respond to this email or contact Senator Kooyenga's office at 6-2512 or Representative Rodriguez's office at 6-0610. Co-sponsors will be automatically added to both bills.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the state superintendent of public instruction must distribute to Wisconsin Reading Corps to provide one-on-one tutoring to pupils the following amounts appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction for that purpose:

1. In the 2017-18 school year, \$300,000.

2. In the 2018-19 school year, \$700,000.

This bill requires the state superintendent to continue annually making the distribution to Wisconsin Reading Corps going forward and increases the amounts appropriated to \$1,000,000 in the 2019-20 school year and \$2,000,000 in the 2020-21 school year.

The bill also 1) changes the purpose of the distribution from providing "one-on-one tutoring" to providing "evidence-based instruction"; and 2) creates a requirement that Wisconsin Reading Corps must submit a biennial report on the effectiveness of the instructional programs.

For further information see the **state and local** fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.