



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Representative Snyder (608) 237-9185
Representative Hong (608) 237-9176
Representative Shankland (608) 237-9171
Senator Tomczyk (608) 266-2502
Senator James (608) 266-7511

Celebrating May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

On May 17, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a historic joint resolution recognizing May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This bipartisan commemoration of the many AANHPI communities that call Wisconsin home underscores the importance of celebrating their rich cultural heritages, their innumerable contributions, and their resilience in the face of adversity.

Wisconsin has the third largest Hmong population in the United States and is home to over 200,000 Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in total. For decades, their stories have often gone untold — their voices undervalued and their experiences pushed to the wayside. As policymakers, we must rededicate ourselves this month and every month to uplifting this community’s impact on Wisconsin by filling in the gaps that exist in our state’s storytelling.

That is why we are proud to announce our bipartisan legislation to update Wisconsin law so that our state’s educational goals in K-12 public schools include instruction regarding Hmong Americans and Asian Americans. We are pleased that the Assembly Committee on Education will be holding a public hearing on this legislation on May 25th. This much anticipated public hearing will highlight the unique place that AANHPI Wisconsinites hold in our history and the role they will play in our collective future. We encourage people to testify in support of the bill and share their personal stories as to why this legislation will create a positive impact on educators, students, and their families.

When signed into law, Assembly Bill 232 and Senate Bill 240 will not only increase awareness of Hmong and Asian American history in our public schools, but will immensely benefit the lives of Wisconsin students by exposing them to an increased diversity of ideas and cultures.

Hmong and Asian American individuals will finally receive the attention, commemoration, and respect they deserve for the vital role they play in Wisconsin, and we will all be better for it.

Thank you to the AANHPI students, organizers, and stakeholders that have made these important milestones happen. We celebrate these individuals in honor of Hmong Heritage Month and Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and look forward to the passage of this bipartisan legislation.

To view the public hearing notice: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/raw/cid/1726027>

To view Assembly Joint Resolution 44: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/ajr44>

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