



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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\*\*\*Media Release\*\*\*

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## **Bipartisan Group of Legislators Introduce Legislation to Require Wisconsin Public Schools to Instruct About Hmong American and Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) Experience**

MADISON – Today, a bipartisan group of legislators including Rep. Patrick Snyder (R- Wausau), Rep. Francesca Hong (D- Madison), Rep. Katrina Shankland (D- Stevens Point), Rep. Ron. Tusler (R- Harrison), and Sen. Eric Wimberger (R- Green Bay) introduced legislation to update the state’s statutory educational goals to require, “at all grade levels, an understanding of human relations, particularly with regard to...Hmong Americans and American Pacific Islander Desi Americans.”

Rep. Patrick Snyder stated, “Wisconsin is home to the third largest population of Hmong Americans of any state, and both our Hmong American and APIDA populations have grown significantly since 2000. This legislation is an important step towards increasing education and awareness about these important communities.”

Rep. Francesca Hong added, “The stories and experiences of these vast and diverse demographics are intrinsically linked with the story of Wisconsin, and this bill will help us ensure that is reflected in our classrooms. Hmong American and APIDA lives, cultures, and contributions to our state, nation, and local communities deserve this attention, commemoration, and respect.”

Rep. Katrina Shankland stated, “I am proud to introduce this timely legislation at the close of Hmong Heritage Month and beginning of APIDA Heritage Month with colleagues in both parties to ensure that the experiences of Hmong Americans and Asian Pacific Islander Desi Americans are given the attention they deserve in our public schools. This bill will enrich students’ education and lives.”

“When students engage with diverse ideas and populations, everyone benefits,” said Rep. Ron Tusler. “They not only expand their knowledge base and critical thinking skills but also their capacity to navigate, engage, and contribute positively to their local, national, and global communities. I’m glad to join with my colleagues in introducing this legislation today.”

“Our Hmong American and Asian Pacific Islander Desi American neighbors enrich our state with their presence and culture,” continued Sen. Eric Wimberger. “Their stories are uniquely American, but often unheard, and our students will certainly benefit from learning about their experiences.”

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