For Immediate Release: Contact: Rep. Treig E. Pronschinske
April 15th, 2024 (608) 237-9192

**Reading Grant Programs**

Governor Evers signed Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) into law this session making it 2023 Wisconsin Act 191. This piece of legislation was authored by Representative Tyler August (R – 32) and Senator Mary Felzkowski (R – 12). Wisconsin Act 191 continues the legacy of the National Reading Grant Programs started by Dolly Parton.

Starting in 1995, Dolly Parton started the, “Imagination Library.” The concept and goal of this program was to provide free books to children under the age of 5. Since its inception, this program has fulfilled that goal by providing over $227 million books to kids across not only in the United States, but throughout the world.

This law will provide funding and reimbursement to local non-profits that help sign up families and invest their communities in these programs. With their being no cost to any of the families with kids below the age of 5, other groups must take the burden of these costs. Oftentimes, these are your local non-profits, which is why this bill was so necessary.

Wisconsin Act 191 will provide reimbursement costs of up to $10,000 or %50 of their costs depending on which one is less. This bill is a simple way of saying thank you to these wonderful local programs that help out our youth and foster the next generation.

I was proud to be a part of the committee that heard this bill and understood its significance.

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns at Rep.Pronschinske@legis.wi.gov.

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