



### ***Media Advisory***

*For Immediate Release*  
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## **Rep. Shankland Celebrates the Passage of Hmong American and Asian American Education Bill**

MADISON— Yesterday, the Wisconsin State Senate passed Assembly Bill 232, which now heads to Governor Evers' desk to be signed into law after passing the State Assembly earlier this year. The bipartisan bill requires K-12 public schools to include instruction regarding Hmong Americans and Asian Americans. Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point), a long-time champion of the legislation, released the following statement:

"Since 2013, I have proudly authored or co-authored this critically important legislation that would ensure the history and heritage of Hmong Americans and Asian Americans is taught in K-12 public schools. For years, our bill never received a public hearing, let alone a vote in committee or on the floor of either chamber of the legislature. As the lead author of the legislation in 2019, I worked hard to ensure the legislation was bipartisan so we could finally move this legislation forward.

"This year, I'm so proud that Assembly Bill 232 received a public hearing in the Assembly Committee on Education where nearly 100 community members showed up to speak in favor of the bill or submit written testimony in support. They shared stories about the Hmong and Asian American cultures and communities, highlighting the importance of representing their heritage in our public education curriculum.

"Because of their advocacy and the strong bipartisan support for this bill, we were able to get public hearings and committee votes in both chambers of the legislature, pass the bill in the Senate and the Assembly, and send it to Governor Evers' desk for his signature, something that didn't seem possible just a few years ago.

"I am grateful for everyone who showed up to support this legislation. I especially want to thank the AAPI Coalition, WUCMAA, Freedom, Inc., and the school boards who helped us build momentum for this bill five years ago, from Stevens Point to La Crosse. I also want to congratulate and thank Rep. Francesca Hong for the coalition-building and leadership that have made this happen. By passing this bill into law, we have demonstrated that even in a deeply divided government, it is possible to come together to do good things for the people of Wisconsin."

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