

The Connecticut General Assembly

House Democrats



For IMMEDIATE Release
Friday, May 19, 2017

Rep. Miller Leads House Approval of Bill Promoting Early Literacy Program

Rep. Pat Billie Miller (D-Stamford), led the House Thursday in a bipartisan vote to approve legislation aimed at creating a Reading Readiness Program at the State Department of Education (SDE) that will assess Alliance Districts and Commissioner's Network schools to determine if they are reading ready and to provide adequate support to the schools as it relates to their performance and needs.

"I once heard that from kindergarten to third grade, a child is learning to read and from fourth grade up, they are reading to learn. This statement resonated with me and, as a result, early literacy became one of my top priorities," **Rep. Miller** said. "I have learned and seen firsthand the disproportion in achievement gaps at our local schools and the role that literacy plays in the success or failure of our students. Giving teachers the right tools to help them address disparities should always be our goal."

Reading Readiness will be determined by evaluating whether the school or district have allocated resources for K-3 reading, if teachers or administrators have received training in reading and completed SDE's professional development, whether external literacy coaches are used and if there is reading intervention staff within the school or district.

This measure, [House Bill #7205](#), also closes a loophole in current law regarding surveys that teachers take to ensure they know the foundations of teaching reading. Teachers will be required to give their survey results to the supervisor who is responsible for the design and facilitation of professional development while ensuring the confidentiality of the teacher's information.

Rep. Miller noted, "I am grateful to my colleagues in the General Assembly, the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, SDE, UConn Neag School, Literacy How and several other partners that have been supportive and strong advocates for not only moving this legislation forward but for also promoting early literacy in our state."

This bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. The regular legislative session adjourns June 7.

Rep. Patricia Billie Miller is Assistant Majority Leader, Chair of Bonding Sub-Committee (Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee) and a member of the Education Committee and the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

###