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Senator Rachel Zenzinger Helps Students Find Jobs -- Billiteracy Seal Highlights Language Skills

Denver, CO -- From sign language to Cantonese, Colorado students who master a second language can now show employers they hold these valuable skills.

The Colorado State Senate has given bipartisan approval to a bill (SB17-123) brought by State Senator Rachel Zenzinger, D-Arvada, and Senator Kevin Priola, R-Henderson, to create a seal of biliteracy on high school diplomas. High school students who pass an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate assessment can use the award to further college admissions and attract employers across a broad range of industries.

The lack of a seal was a concern to Foster Elementary in Arvada, where talented students in the bilingual program were often overlooked. "We tried last year to find a way to pass this, but were disappointed," said Principal Leigh Hiester. "We are so grateful that Sen. Zenzinger stepped up and took this on for our school. It will really make a difference."

Senator Zenzinger added, "I want to give Colorado students a way to demonstrate they have the 21st Century skills to compete in a global economy,

and I want to help employers in healthcare, retail, and many other fields find the staff they need to thrive."

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