

THE PROENGLISH Advocate

ProEnglish Honors Rep. Steve Scalise with Unity Award



The Board of Directors of ProEnglish has awarded Rep. Steve Scalise with the Theodore Roosevelt American Unity Award for the 114th Congress. The Congressman represents Louisiana's 1st District and is the current U.S. House of Representatives Majority Whip. The presentation to Rep. Scalise was made in the Lincoln Room in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. by the Director of Government Relations, Dan Carter.

The award is given biennially to recognize the legislator in each Congress whose leadership in working to preserve and protect the nation's unity through our common English language best exemplifies U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt's commitment to American unity.

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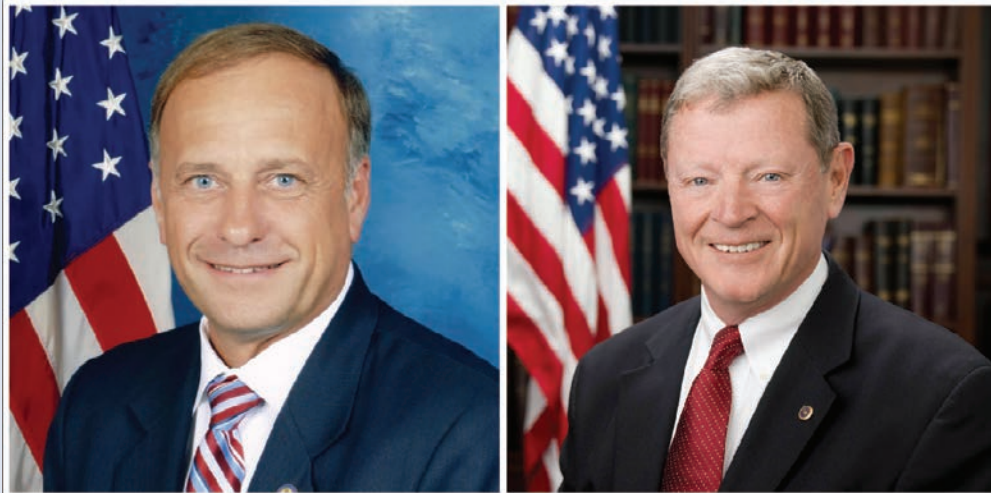
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ProEnglish on Capitol Hill



Passage of English Language Unity Act Needed



(Left: Rep. Steve King, Right: Senator James Inhofe)

House Resolution 997 (“The English Language Unity Act”) has again been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. It designates English as the nation’s official language of governmental operations and establishes a uniform language requirement for the citizen naturalization process. An identical companion bill, S. 678 has also been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla.

“Our national unity is undermined by the dangerous precedent of bilingual and multilingual communications that are increasing from elected government officials and from unelected federal bureaucrats,” says ProEnglish Government Relations Director Dan Carter. “ProEnglish in the past has testified on behalf of H.R. 997 before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and this legislation has been thoroughly vetted. The time is right during this Congress— and now with a sympathetic presidential administration-- to send this bill to the House floor for an up-or-down vote.”

“2010 Census figures reveal that approximately 59 million people in the U.S. speak a language other than English at home, and the expense to taxpayers of multilingual translations is rising at the local, state and federal governmental level,” Carter says. “Congress must act to underscore the

importance and need for English to be the official language of all government operations. After all, 32 states already have such laws.”

Currently the federal government operates under a de facto unofficial multilingual mandate known as Executive Order 13166, signed by then-President Bill Clinton and never repealed. This order requires every federal agency and every recipient of any federal funds, such as hospitals and doctors’ offices, to provide translation services, interpreters and documents in ANY foreign language requested. And there is no federal money set aside to help these entities provide these services.

Congressman King points out that H.R. 997 doesn’t simply mean “English only,” as some detractors claim. Rather, it means the government would use the official language alone unless there is a compelling public interest not to. It limits translations to explicit areas, such as homeland security, public safety and the teaching and funding of foreign languages in schools.

“Making English the official language of government fosters the melting-pot principle that helped make the United States the most successful multiethnic nation on Earth,” Carter concludes.

ProEnglish at The White House



President Trump Promotes Assimilation



“We have a country where to assimilate, you have to speak English,” then-presidential candidate Donald Trump declared during a September 2015 debate. Knowing that stance, which he repeated several times during the campaign, it should have been no surprise that after the new president was inaugurated the White House changed its official website to content only in English.

A lot of Spanish language content was posted during Barack Obama’s presidency, but the Trump administration quickly changed things on Inauguration Day. In the months following President Obama’s swearing in back in 2009, the Spanish White House page was created as well as a blog for Spanish-speakers.

It is not clear, as this is written, if a Spanish page will be re-created on the website— although there is pressure from radical Hispanic groups to do so.

ProEnglish Government Relations Director Dan Carter says the Trump administration shouldn’t give Spanish-speakers any special dispensation. “If they want to return to Spanish on the White House website, then why not also have platforms in every one of the 300-plus foreign languages spoken in the United States?” Carter asked. “Of course that would be absurd, so all this underscores again the need for Congress to finally designate English as the official language of the federal government.”

Official English in the States

ProEnglish is encouraged about movement in various state legislatures to promote official English in the states. Last year West Virginia became the 32nd state to adopt official English language legislation.

Currently there is legislation pending in the following states:

New York where Sen. Pamela Helming has introduced SB 2581.

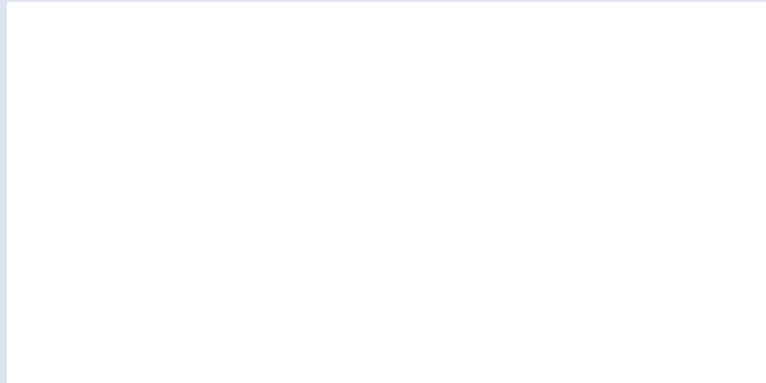
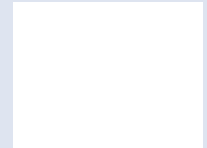
Texas...Sen. Bob Hall has introduced SB 373.

Pennsylvania...Rep Ryan Warner has introduced legislation.

New Jersey... State Senator Anthony Bucco has introduced S. 69.

Nevada...Assemblyman Richard McArthur has submitted a bill to the Nevada legislature.

Michigan... Rep. Tom Barrett is the sponsor of HB 4053.



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