

THE PROENGLISH Advocate

ProEnglish Exposes \$44 Million Spent on Obamacare Translation Services

In October 2013, ProEnglish launched an investigation into the amount of taxpayer dollars that were being spent on foreign language translation services under the new health care law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), commonly referred to as "Obamacare."

ProEnglish submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request within the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) seeking all records tending to demonstrate any costs incurred for translation or interpretation of Obamacare materials into languages other than English.

Although HHS is required to comply with the request to hand over documents within 20 business days, HHS has ignored ProEnglish's FOIA request for months and has yet to turn over any information. But, with the help of Washington, D.C.-based attorney Lisette Garcia's FOIA Resource Center, ProEnglish has obtained an HHS

spreadsheet listing 15 contracts involving Obamacare translation and interpretation services spending.

Ms. Garcia, a former reporter at the Miami Herald with years of experience filing FOIA requests, recently spoke about our investigation: "FOIA Resource Center is privileged to help ProEnglish quickly and cost-effectively obtain evidence of millions in Obamacare spending on translation of promotional and enrollment materials into 180 foreign languages. Our democracy only operates well under the strictest supervision. We should all be watching the government, especially now that we have a clue about how keenly the government watches each one of us."

Publicly available records indicate that the agency has spent more than \$44 million since Obamacare became law on services and materials provided in languages other than English. In other words, the amount of known money that HHS has spent on foreign language trans-

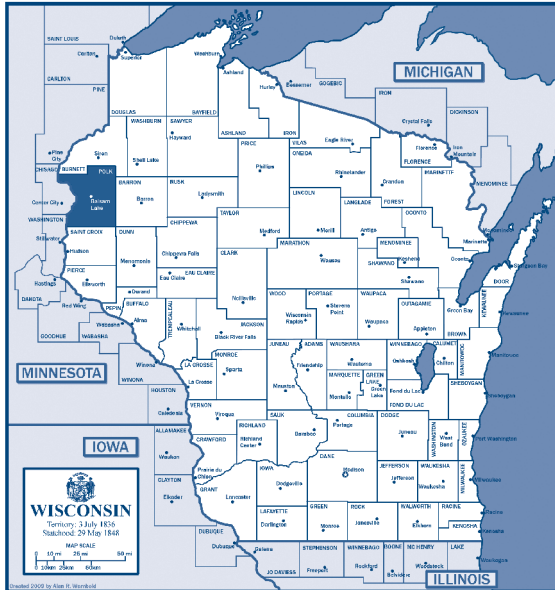
lation services since the ACA was signed into law could have paid for 1,128,205 mammograms, 2,095 knee-replacements, and 414 coronary bypass surgeries.

ProEnglish will continue to exercise oversight of the federal government's expenditures for the components of the Obamacare law that are being translated into foreign languages, including the Spanish-language enrollment website <https://www.cuidadodesalud.gov/es/>, the running of Obamacare call centers in 180 languages, and multilingual media campaigns to advertise and promote the law.

Be assured that our investigation remains ongoing because ProEnglish believes that taxpayers and supporters of English language unity in the U.S. deserve to know how their tax dollars are being spent. You can read our full report by visiting the ProEnglish homepage on the web at www.proenglish.org.

The following information applies to the enclosed package in its entirety. ProEnglish is a project of U.S. U.S. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and as such, can expend only a specific portion of its overall resources on lobbying activities. While your contribution will not be earmarked for a specific campaign, its availability at this time will assist us in meeting all of our goals. A copy of our latest financial report may be obtained from either the Secretary of State of New York, Albany, NY 12231 or from U.S., 445 East Mitchell St., Petoskey, MI 49770-2623. The official registration and financial information of U.S. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305.

New County Votes to Adopt Official English



In January, Polk County, Wisconsin's board of supervisors voted to make English the official language of the county. Wisconsin is one of only 19 remaining states that have not adopted a statewide official English law.

Introduced by Supervisor Rick Scoglio, the resolution requires that all audio, video, printed materials, signage, and other materials used by the local government be produced exclusively in the English language.

During the public discussion, Supervisor Scoglio referred to his resolution as "one that is being discussed all around the country in many different counties, cities, and states." Although it was accompanied by a long and lively debate, the proposed resolution passed easily by a vote of 13 to 9.

Contrary to what congressional leaders would have you believe, passing laws to make English the official language is one of the most popular, highest polling issues around. ProEnglish Executive Director Robert Vandervoort explained, "While Congress is misguidedly attempting to push through an immigration bill without enforceable English assimilation provisions, the American people are passing ordinances in their own towns and counties to promote English language learning and integration."

While ProEnglish continues to push official English in Congress and in the state legislatures, you can greatly help us do this at the local level by encouraging your locally elected county officials to introduce official English ordinances, just like Polk County.

The ProEnglish Advocate

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1601 N. Kent Street, Suite 1100
Arlington, Virginia 22209
tel. (703) 816-8821 fax (571) 527-2813
Website: www.proenglish.org

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In Congress

Pressure is on to add the island of Puerto Rico as our 51st State

By Gerda Bikales

The push to make Puerto Rico a state never seems to go away, despite repeated defeats. In February, Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced the "Puerto Rican Status Resolution Act" (S. 2020), which seeks to admit Puerto Rico as the 51st state. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

In addition to the pending legislation in Congress, the Obama Administration allocated \$2.5 million in the budget for the coming year to allow for yet another referendum on the island's relationship with the U.S. Of course, there is a silver lining here: The fact that the White House set aside money for a new referendum signals that President Obama views the 2012 status vote as rigged and, therefore, invalid.

Since the party opposed to statehood now controls the Puerto Rican legislature and the Governor's offices, chances of another referendum are slim. However, it is still important that Americans remain vigilant in exposing the risks of Puerto Rican statehood.

Spanish is the dominant language of the island, spoken by 95% of the population. It is the only language used in the local courts, with the exception of the U.S. federal courts. Accepting Puerto Rico as a state of the Union, without a specific designation of English as the official language of the new state would automatically transform the United States into a bilingual nation. Canada's experience is highly instructive: accepting Quebec with its official French language made the whole country officially bilingual, creating a sharp cultural and political divide and adding high costs to government services.

This is another important reason why we need to make sure Rep. Steve King's "English Language Unity Act" (H.R. 997) is passed and signed into law. Unlike most of the world's countries, America lacks an official language law. Making English our official language would help prevent this effort to turn us into a bilingual country like Canada.

Gerda Bikales is a board member emeritus of ProEnglish and contributing editor to The Social Contract.

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ProEnglish News

ProEnglish Celebrating Twenty Years



This year marks the twentieth anniversary of ProEnglish, the nation's leading advocate for official English. Since 1994 we have accomplished many important victories in the cause for official English. In a forthcoming issue of The ProEnglish Advocate, we will detail highlights from our achievements over the years.

In this issue, we are featuring a new logo commemorating our twenty years, as well as some new changes in the design of the newsletter. We draw from our past as we look forward to the future, and ProEnglish thanks you for being part of the official English movement.

ProEnglish News



ProEnglish Attends CPAC 2014 as Exhibitor

ProEnglish attended its fourth consecutive Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in early March of 2014. CPAC is the largest annual gathering of conservative activists, students and politicians. It was held this year in National Harbor, Maryland, right outside of Washington, DC.

During the three-day event, ProEnglish staff and interns spoke with hundreds of interested attendees at the Pro-



ProEnglish interns Travis Rush, Karl Melton and Website & Social Media Manager Peter Lee.

English booth in the main exhibit hall. ProEnglish distributed copies of our four most recent newsletters, along with backgrounders and other assorted literature. Also on display was a 30-minute video, which highlighted various ProEnglish accomplishments from recent years. Staff members also attended a variety of CPAC panels and main stage speeches that dealt with immigration, language, and assimilation.

In the Courts



Bennett v. Pima Community College: School Officials Questioned



ProEnglish is engaged in defending nursing student Terri Bennett, who was suspended by her community college for asking her classmates to speak English. Incredible as it seems, this happened in Arizona, which designates

English as its official language for government purposes.

When Ms. Bennett approached the Pima Community College (PCC) Nursing School Director David Kutzler with her request for English to be spoken in the classrooms, he called her a "bigot" for even raising the issue. School Vice President Ann Parker

reaffirmed Director Kutzler's position. The school ultimately used armed campus security to present Ms. Bennett with a nine-month suspension.

Ms. Bennett turned to us for help, and we found a law firm in Arizona willing to take on PCC. Now, both Director Kutzler and Vice President Parker have had to answer questions under oath by the Munger & Chadwick attorneys about the reasons they suspended Ms. Bennett. Additional PCC administrators will be questioned as well. Ms. Bennett has done nothing wrong, and ProEnglish is convinced that she will prevail. For more information about the case and for ways you can help her, visit the "Support Terri Bennett" section on the homepage of proenglish.org.

TX Principal Fired for Asking Students to Speak English

Similar to the Terri Bennett case in Arizona (see article above), a middle school principal in Texas received a fierce and negative reaction for requesting that students in her school speak English on campus. Amy Lacey, former principal of Hempstead Middle School, was placed on administrative leave and later fired this spring for requesting over the school's intercom that students speak English on campus. The Spanish-speaking population of

this rural community has been growing recently and some parents expressed outrage at the principal's request.

ProEnglish reached out to Ms. Lacey to offer our assistance, however she informed us that she has retained legal counsel. She thanked us for contacting her and indicated she would keep ProEnglish in mind as her situation develops.

In the Courts



DOJ Argues in Favor of Multilingual Driver's Licenses in Hawaii

The state of Hawaii required that their driver's license exams be conducted in English without use of translators. The Faith Action for Community Equity filed a class action lawsuit against Hawaii for discrimination.

This spring, however, the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HI DOT) caved and began offering the test in 12 additional languages: Tagalog, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Samoan, Tongan, Ilocano, Spanish, Chuukese, Marshallese and

Hawaiian. As HI DOT added these additional languages, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed court documents in support of the plaintiff's class action lawsuit.

The Faith Action for Community Equity stated they were "pleased to have the DOJ's support." ProEnglish is monitoring this case because American drivers should share a common language on the road.

Around the Nation



Rep. Daryl Metcalfe Reignites Push for Official English in Pennsylvania



Rep. Daryl Metcalfe

At the end of March, Pennsylvania Representative Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler County) introduced House Bill 2132 (HB 2132), legislation that would make English the official language of the state of Pennsylvania. If passed and signed into law, Pennsylvania would become the 32nd state to adopt an official English law.

In 2011, you may recall that ProEnglish testified before the Pennsylvania House Committee on State Government, on which Rep. Metcalfe currently serves as chairman. HB 2132 has been referred to this committee, which means that Rep. Metcalfe himself is responsible for calling a committee vote to advance the bill to the House floor.

Upon introducing his bill, Rep. Metcalfe explained his motivation for spearheading the official English effort. "Time and time again, history has demonstrated that the English language is one of the strongest and most fundamental ties uniting all American citizens," said Metcalfe. "Pennsylvania taxpayers simply cannot afford, and should not continue to be required, to foot the bill for government translating and printing

infinite amounts of forms, documents and publications in many languages other than English."

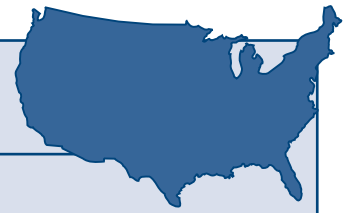
Rep. Metcalfe's bill contains a number of common sense exceptions, such as public safety and teaching foreign languages in schools. Of course, opponents responded to the new legislation by claiming it was not necessary.

"Everybody knows that English is our common language (in Pennsylvania), and nobody knows it better than the immigrants coming here," said Anne O'Callaghan, a longtime opponent of official English efforts who testified against similar legislation in 2011.

In 2006, Pennsylvanians were overwhelmingly supportive of Hazelton, PA passing its own official English ordinance, which remains in effect today. Even national polling company Rasmussen Reports has found as recently as May 2013 that 84% of likely voters nationwide continue to support official English.

"Given the high level of public support, this is ideal legislation to advance during an election year. It's time for Pennsylvania to join the vast majority of states that have established English as the official language," said ProEnglish Director of Government Relations Suzanne Bibby. "Rep. Metcalfe has been a longtime supporter of English language unity, so we're thrilled to see him leading the charge to restore America's 'Melting Pot' tradition in Pennsylvania."

Around the Nation



Legislator Wants to Reinstate Bilingual Education in California



Ricardo Lara

Ricardo Lara, a Democrat from Bell Gardens, CA, has filed a bill to repeal Proposition 227, the initiative that ended bilingual education by popular vote of the people.

Ron Unz, the man who led the fight for English-language education for immigrant children, points out that test scores, promotion, and high school graduation rates have improved for immigrant students in the state since Prop 227's passage. Dr. Rosalie Pedalino Porter, who worked with Unz on this referendum, and is chairman of the ProEnglish Board, said, "Mr. Lara's proposal would turn back the gains in student achievement since the law was changed. We must count on the good sense of the California legislature not to pass such a bad idea."

Passed by a ratio of nearly 2 to 1 in 1998, Prop 227 replaced bilingual education, a twenty-year failure, with the more effective English Immersion program.

Bill Adding 20 Native Languages to Alaska Official English Law on Governor's Desk



Earlier this year, Alaska Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Thompkins introduced a bill that proposed adding 20 Native Alaskan languages to the state's longstanding official English law. University of Alaska-Southeast professor Lance Twitchell testified in favor of the bill, and claimed that the loss of native languages is tied to "cultural genocide" against Alaska natives. The bill sponsor argued that the bill was an attempt to help preserve these dying languages.

While the bill was being considered in the House committee, an amendment was adopted stipulating that the Native Alaskan languages would be considered as honorary or symbolic official languages of the state. The amendment effectively remedied ProEnglish's concern that adding 20 new languages to the state's official English statute would dilute the law's original intent and meaning.

HB 216 passed both the House and the Senate and has been sent to Governor Sean Parnell's desk for his signature.

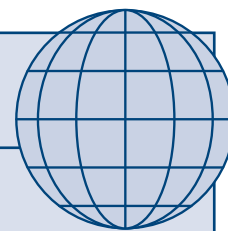
Coca-Cola Airs Multilingual "America, the Beautiful" Ad During Super Bowl

During the Super Bowl, Coca-Cola shocked much of the country by airing an ad that featured "America, the Beautiful" sung in a multitude of languages. The ad represented Coca-Cola's misguided attempt to show that our differences as Americans make us great. Former Congressman Allen West opined that an inability to be proud of singing the patriotic song in only English during a Super Bowl ad signifies that our country is "on the road to perdition." To many patriotic Americans, the ad looked like a naked promotion of divisive multiculturalism.

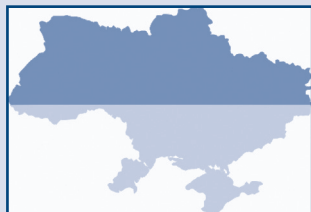


ProEnglish promptly sent a letter to Coca-Cola's CEO, explaining how the ad undermined America's linguistic unity and discouraged assimilation. We have yet to receive a response.

Around the World



Language Divide Fueling Conflict in Ukraine



Within the growing conflict between Russia and Ukraine over national sovereignty, there is also a dispute over language and identity. According to The International Business Times and the Associated Press, language has emerged as a central issue following the removal of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich. After Yanukovich was deposed, the Ukrai-

nian Parliament repealed a 2012 law which allowed for the use of "regional languages," as it related to certain official functions within Ukraine's government and court system. The move has been criticized by scholars such as Olga Oliker of the RAND Corporation, who said cancelling the 2012 law could be seen as, "a sign that there might be growing discrimination," against the Russian population. However, Svitlana Melnyk of Indiana University-Bloomington posits that a monolingual policy helps to bolster Ukraine's sense of national identity.

European Banks Transition to English



Banks throughout Europe are set to make the move to English, when communicating with bank regulatory authorities, by the end of this year. Specifically, according to the Irish Independent, Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank, instructed that English will be the main

language of use for European bank supervision, stating, "It can be agreed to use, until further notice, English only." While banks will still be free to use their own preferred language in communication with the banking authority, the primary means of communication by the regulator to the banks themselves will be in English. It is worth noting the irony that European banks can see the need for English as a common language, but many of our own politicians in America cannot.

Quebec Salad Shop in Trouble with Language Police



According to Canada's National Post, sisters Mandy and Rebecca Wolfe, who own the local Montreal salad bar Mandy's, have run afoul of the Quebec Board of the French Language for posting decorative English language signs within their restaurant. Over 90 percent of the signs

in the sisters' shop are in French, and the English language signs are for decor. Nevertheless, the sisters are still in trouble with the Quebec language police and are being forced to remove the decorative English language signs. The sisters went on to argue that the language issue pits their government and segments of their society against them, and that it would eventually cause some residents to move away to places like Toronto or the United States.

Ways to help win the battle for official English online

1. Join ProEnglish's online action alert network: Make your voice heard on official English, bilingual ballots, bilingual education and similar issues. Sign up to receive email alerts when things are happening in Congress. You will get up-to-the-minute information on upcoming votes, talking points, and contact information you can use to email or call your congressmen. To sign up, visit <http://capwiz.com/proenglish/mlm/signup/>.
2. Contact your elected representatives: Express your support for laws to make English the official language, stop government sponsored multilingualism, or expand incentives for immigrants to learn English. To send emails to your elected representatives at no cost, visit our Legislative Action Center online at <http://capwiz.com/proenglish>.
3. Help ProEnglish grow: Tell your friends about our fight to preserve English as the unifying language of our nation. Send them a link to our website at www.proenglish.org. Mention ProEnglish in every email you send by adding information about ProEnglish to your email signature.
4. Write letters to the editor: Write letters in support of making English our official language. Or respond to news stories about English-on-the-job, English in schools, or the use of English by government agencies.

How to Put ProEnglish in Your Will

ProEnglish is a tax-exempt organization. Thus under IRS rules, any size bequest made to ProEnglish is deductible from the taxable portion of a person's estate. That can reduce a person's estate taxes under certain circumstances. A gift to ProEnglish can be made by simply including the following language in your will, "I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to ProEnglish, a project of US, the sum of _____dollars" [or "I hereby give devise, and bequeath to ProEnglish, a project of US, _____percent of my residual estate"]. Anyone interested making a gift to ProEnglish in their will should first check with their attorney or tax-advisor.

Keep up the good work. Here is my donation:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other: _____

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