

# THE PROENGLISH Advocate

## Senators Propose English Amendments to Immigration Overhaul

**P**roEnglish praises both Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) and Senator Deb Fischer (R-Nebraska) for introducing four critically important amendments to the Senate comprehensive immigration bill (S. 744).

Despite the bi-partisan Gang of Eight's claims that "illegal aliens will learn English," S. 744 does not require illegal aliens to demonstrate any English language ability prior to being awarded immediate legal status and work permits. Instead, the legislation allows legalized aliens to renew their temporary legal status (called Registered Provisional Immigrant status) every six years for the rest of their lives without ever being subjected to an English language proficiency test. The legislation also fails to include any provisions establishing English as the official language of the federal government.

In June, Senator Inhofe filed the following three amendments: 1) to make English the official language of the federal government, 2) to protect private employers who have English-on-the-job policies from frivolous EEOC "language

discrimination" lawsuits, and 3) to require the federal government and federal agencies to begin reporting the amount of taxpayer dollars they spend each year on translation and interpreter costs, which they currently do not do. Senator Fischer's amendment would make illegal aliens ineligible for legal status if they cannot meet minimal English language

residing and working in ethnic enclaves made it easier for immigrants to continue speaking their native language and put off—or avoid altogether—learning English. The study even attributed the decline of English-speaking immigrants to a total lack of any sort of language proficiency requirement for legal immigration to the U.S.



Sen. Jim Inhofe



Sen. Deb Fischer

standards set forth in existing U.S. law, known as Sec. 312.

Recent research supports the rationale behind these amendments to promote and protect English. In their 2013 study, "Living and Working in Ethnic Enclaves: English Language Proficiency of Immigrants in U.S. Metropolitan Areas," Purdue University researchers found that

this year.

We thank these Senators for bravely challenging the Gang of Eight's neglect of the English issue. In introducing these amendments, Senators Inhofe and Fischer stood with the vast majority of the American people who support the preservation of English as the common unifying language of the United States.

Unfortunately, on June 27, after Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) allowed votes on only 9 amendments, the Senate voted to pass S. 744 without any fixes to the English provisions by a vote of 68 to 32.

The immigration debate has now moved over to the U.S. House. ProEnglish will continue to work to advance similar amendments to any immigration legislation that moves through Congress

# Brand new push for Puerto Rican statehood in Congress



Although former Puerto Rican Governor Luis Fortuno was defeated in the 2012 election, his pro-statehood New Progressive Party (NPP) running mate Pedro Pierluisi was re-elected as Resident Commissioner. The Resident Commissioner serves as Puerto Rico's non-voting delegate in the U.S. Congress.

In May, Pierluisi introduced the Puerto Rico Status Resolution Act of 2013, H.R. 2000, to require the State Elections Commission of Puerto Rico to hold a single-question referendum on the island. The question would read: "Do you want Puerto Rico to be admitted as a State of the United States? Answer Yes or No." The legislation, once again, ignores the issue of language policy. It makes no mention of whether the island would be willing to change the language of its government and schools from de facto Spanish to de facto English in the event it becomes the 51st state.

So far, the bill has gained 82 bi-partisan co-sponsors in the U.S. House. Upon introduction of his bill, Pierluisi stated, "I expect a clear and firm answer from Congress. This cannot fall on deaf ears. 'We lack democratic rights ... It's about time this issue be addressed.'"

But some in Congress view this bill as a risky move for the pro-statehood lobby, signaling that perhaps the pro-statehood sentiment in Puerto Rico is not at all as strong as claimed. "It is 'a roll of the dice,' said Democratic Rep. José Serrano of New York, a co-sponsor. "If people vote against statehood, then I think it could disappear as an issue for a generation."

Pierluisi introduced this new legislation on the heels of the White House including \$2.5 million in its budget proposal to Congress for Puerto Rico to conduct another status referendum. The White House's inclusion of new funds to be used towards a brand new referendum confirms that President Obama has officially rejected the tampered results from the 2012 status referendum. Not only was the referendum non-binding, but it produced an artificial majority for statehood by excluding the status quo option as a choice from the ballot.

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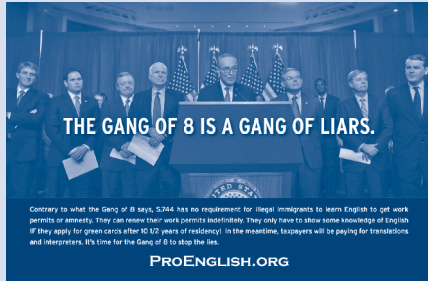


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# In Congress

## ProEnglish runs successful ad campaign against “Gang of Eight”



On June 11, the day that the Senate was scheduled to vote to proceed to a floor debate of the Gang of Eight's comprehensive immigration bill (S.744), ProEnglish placed an advertisement in the widely read Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call. The ad (photo above) declared that contrary to repeated claims by the “Gang of 8,” their legislation actually contains no requirement that illegal immigrants applying for legal status must learn English.

“The ad was headlined ‘The Gang of 8 is a Gang of Liars.’ The ad script read:

“Contrary to what the Gang of 8 says, S. 744 has no requirement for illegal immigrants to learn English to get work permits or amnesty. They can renew their work permits indefinitely. They only have to show some knowledge of English IF they apply for green cards after 10 and a half years of residency! In the meantime, taxpayers will be paying for translations and interpreters. It's time for the Gang of 8 to stop the lies.”

“For at least ten years and perhaps for their entire lives, this huge new group of predominantly non-English speaking, former illegal immigrants will create a huge new demand for costly government services in their native language, further exacerbating the dangerous and growing division of the United

States into separate cultural and linguistic communities,” said ProEnglish Executive Director Bob Vandervoort. “This would be an unprecedented calamity for our nation's unity,” he said.

Just a few hours after the ProEnglish ad was published, Gang of 8 member Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) announced that he was introducing an amendment to the bill that would “strengthen” the English requirements. Rubio says his amendment would eliminate a loophole in the legislation that undermines the English language requirement. However, his amendment would simply strike the option for green card applicants to enroll in an English course to fulfill their “English skills” requirement. It would have no effect on illegal aliens proving English ability before being granted legal status and a work permit.

Competing inside-the-beltway newspaper The Hill reported on the ProEnglish ad: “ProEnglish, a group advocating for strong language requirements for immigrants, argued the authors of the bill have overstated its English standards.”

“He was obviously stung by our advertising campaign,” said Vandervoort. The Rubio amendment still does not address the issue of amnestied aliens being able to renew their work permits every six years for the rest of their lives. In the meantime, taxpayers will be paying untold hundreds of millions of dollars for translations and interpreters. By the time the Senate voted to end the floor debate and move towards final passage, the Rubio amendment never received a vote.

## ProEnglish Awards Retiring Congressman Ron Paul with the American Unity Award

Last November, ProEnglish presented the 2012 American Unity Award to retiring Congressman Ron Paul (TX-14) for his steadfast support for official English. From left to right: ProEnglish Government Relations Director Suzanne Bibby, Executive Director Robert Vandervoort, Congressman Ron Paul, and Web & Social Media Manager Peter Lee.





# ProEnglish News

## **“They’ll Have to Learn English a Lie” – ProEnglish Runs Hard-Hitting Radio Ads**

In May, ProEnglish ran hard-hitting radio ads in South Carolina, informing listeners there about the lack of real English-language requirements. The ads feature a man speaking in Spanish thanking Senator Lindsey Graham for making him legal without first requiring him to learn English.

A woman translates for him during the ad. At the end of the ad, the Spanish-speaking man says that since

government translates everything for him, he doesn’t have to learn English, and then laughs. The female translator ends by exclaiming, “That’s not funny!”

The ads provoked a strong reaction, and ProEnglish appeared on several talk radio shows to discuss them. You can listen to the original radio ads at our website at [www.proenglish.org](http://www.proenglish.org)

## **ProEnglish Attends CPAC 2013 Conference**

ProEnglish attended CPAC for the third straight year in 2013. This year’s event took place at the Gaylord Hotel in National Harbor, MD.

ProEnglish set up a booth with its liberty bell logo prominently displayed. Staff members Robert Vandervoort, Suzanne Bibby, and Peter Lee along with intern Marjorie Jeffrey struck up numerous conversations with interested passersby. ProEnglish distributed flyers as well as some of its most important literature to the students, young professionals, and older adults who stopped by the booth.

ProEnglish was interviewed on four radio shows at CPAC: the Tim Constantine Show (WFOY, St. Augustine, FL), Conservative Commandos (WNJC, Egg Harbor, NJ), the Scott Bertram Show (WROK, Rockville, IL), and On the Edge with Allan Poteshman (ACNation, Nashua, NH).

ProEnglish Board Member Phil Kent was on hand at CPAC 2013. Kent, along with Vandervoort, had



ProEnglish Board Member Phil Kent (left), Senator James Inhofe, R-OK (center), and ProEnglish Executive Director Robert Vandervoort (right)

occasion to catch up with Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma at CPAC. Inhofe is the most supportive U.S. Senator of the cause for official English.

## **Karl Melton Starts Summer Internship with ProEnglish**

College student Karl Melton started his internship with ProEnglish this summer. Karl will be a junior this fall at American University in Washington, DC. He is a political science major and originally from Folsom, California.

“The existence of multiple languages in our society undermines the values of our founding,” Karl notes. “The only way we can stay united is if we have a common tongue that is recognized by the government.” Karl is already helping ProEnglish with research, data entry, attending coalition meetings, and various other projects.



## ProEnglish Attends “Hold Their Feet to the Fire”

For the second consecutive year, ProEnglish was out and about at FAIR’s ‘Hold Their Feet to the Fire’ radio row event, which took place in Washington, DC on April 17th and 18th.



ProEnglish Executive Director Robert Vandervoort on the Blaine Young Show (WFMD, Frederick, MD)



ProEnglish on the Cindy Graves Show (WBOB, Jacksonville, FL)

In addition to those pictured above, ProEnglish also held interviews with Jim Sharpe (KFYI, Phoenix, AZ), Dan Rivers (WKBN, Youngstown, OH), Dave Barger (WRTA, Altoona, PA), Rob Schilling (WINA, Charlottesville, VA), Joe Thomas (WCHV, Charlottesville, VA), Bill Profita (WBRP, Baton Rouge, LA), Dave Elswick (KARN, Little Rock, AR), and many others.

## In the Courts



### Nursing Student Suspended for Wanting Classrooms in English

In late April, Terri Bennett from Tucson, Arizona called ProEnglish seeking urgent assistance. A nursing student at Pima Community College, she found out that she had been suspended. Her crime? She had asked for the school director to insist that students speak English in the classroom so she could follow what was going on. The school administrators called her a “racist” and a “bigot” among other insults. She was then suspended for nine months.

ProEnglish is currently working with Ms. Bennett and our attorneys to find all available legal remedies for her. We will be filing in court to bring justice for her.

We asked if she would be willing to describe what she was going through as all this happened.

ProEnglish: What did you think

when you found out you were being suspended just for asking that your classes be kept in English?

Terri Bennett: “At first, I was scared. I was frightened that I had done something wrong. It was hard to be considered kicked out of school for nine months.”

ProEnglish: What do you make of it all?

Terri Bennett: “I couldn’t believe how political all this is, and it was tough.”

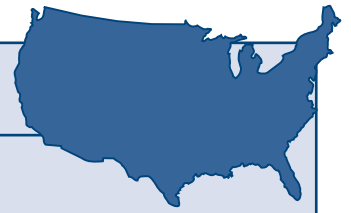
ProEnglish: How did you find ProEnglish?

Terri Bennett: “After calling all kinds of lawyers, no one would help me. I started searching for organizations that were for English and found you. You were a Godsend. You were the only one who said, ‘Tell us your story’ and reassured me that I had a case here. You would listen to me.”



Left to right: ProEnglish Board Member Phil Kent, plaintiff Terri Bennett, and attorney John Munger.

# Around the Nation



## Hudson Institute Report Shows America's Immigrants No Longer Assimilating

A recent study by the Hudson Institute showed that America's ability to assimilate immigrants is weak and broken-down. Some of the key findings included the fact that 85% of native-born Americans, compared with 54% of naturalized immigrants, are more likely to consider themselves Americans than "citizens of the world." 82% of native-born Americans consider it very important for the future of the Ameri-

can political system that all citizens learn English. The corresponding number for foreign-born citizens is 59%. The report also proved that native-born Americans have a much greater knowledge of civics than naturalized citizens. As a result, the report concludes that any attempt at immigration reform must be accompanied by comprehensive assimilation reform.

## Purdue University Study: Immigrants in Ethnic Enclaves Lacking in English

A recent study by Purdue University showed that adult immigrants who go about their daily lives surrounded by others who share the same ethnic background are less likely to learn, or be proficient in English. The study involved immigrants from Mexico and China who were over 25 years of age. The authors noted that oftentimes Mexican immigrants

can get along easier without knowing English than their Chinese counterparts, due to the United States' tendency to accommodate Spanish-speaking immigrants. The proportion of English-speaking immigrants has declined from 85 percent in 1900 to 71 percent in 2010.

## Rasmussen Poll Shows 84% Support English as Official Language of USA

A poll conducted by Rasmussen Reports on May 10-11, 2013 showed that 84% of Americans support making English the official language of the United States. Only 12% of those surveyed thought English

should not be the nation's official language. The survey measured the opinions of 1,000 adults and has a margin of sampling error of +/- 3 percentage points with a 95% level of confidence.

## Whole Foods Denies English-Only Policy



Whole Foods Market found itself facing a potential boycott in early June after two employees claimed they were suspended because they spoke Spanish during work hours. Following the suspension, Whole Foods Market Rocky Mountain Region executive marketing coordinator Ben Friedland said Whole Foods strives for "having a uniform form of communication" and "therefore, our policy states that all English-speaking team members must speak English to customers and other team members on the clock."

Whole Foods has since distanced itself from Friedland's comments, issuing a statement that the company has no such policy in effect, and that the two employees were suspended for poor behavior and

not linguistic reasons. In an attempt to clarify it's policy on English in the workplace, Whole Foods stressed that English is the default, but not mandatory language spoken.

Whole Foods actual policy states "English-speaking Team Members must speak English to customers and other Team Members while on the clock. Team Members are free to speak any language they would like during their breaks, meal periods and before and after work. Additionally, this policy does not apply to conversations among Team Members and customers if all parties present agree that a different language is their preferred form of communication."

## Custodians in Colorado Sue to Speak Spanish at Work



Is it discrimination for an employer to refuse to translate English policies and directions for their employees? According to 12 custodians at the Auraria Campus in Denver, the answer is yes, or more likely, sí. The Spanish-speaking janitors filed an EEOC complaint this May against the Auraria Higher Education Center.

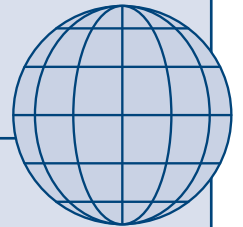
Custodian Bertha Ribota, one of the 12 individuals who filed a complaint, claimed she suffered an injury because she couldn't read a warning sign that was in English. Other incidents involve confusion over who works the graveyard shifts, and various changes in

the workplace that were printed in English.

Despite the threat of a lawsuit, the Auraria Campus is standing their ground. Campus spokesman Blaine Nickeson said that "our employees are expected to interact with members of the public and in that interaction we expect them to be able to understand English."

There is no state law requiring the campus to translate. However, if the EEOC finds damages, the complaint would go to the Department of Justice for review. ProEnglish applauds the efforts of both the citizens and council members in delivering this resolution.

## Around the World



### Tensions Mount as Quebec's War on English Continues

One only has to look at our neighbor to the north to realize the potential dangers of a bilingual society where two languages are pitted against each other. English speakers in Quebec, otherwise known as anglophones, claim they are not welcome in the province now that the Parti Québécois, which advocates for the secession of Quebec, won a minority government last year.

Jamie Rosenbluth, who owns a bike rental shop, was asked by an inspector to increase the size of the French writing on his pricing list by 30%. He replied: "You want me to make the French words 30% bigger? O.K., how about I charge French-speaking people 30% more? It is so silly. Are they 30% better than me? Are they 30% smarter than me?"

What is behind the tension between French and English speaking Québécois? A controversial piece of legislation known as Bill 14, which is being pro-

posed to the National Assembly. If it passes, critics claim it will encourage anglophones to leave Quebec.

According to restaurant owner Massimo Lecas, "definitely non-Francophone kids who are graduating are leaving. If you're not married yet, if you don't own a business yet, it's like, 'I'm so outta here.' But leaving is not the solution because when you leave, they win."

If Bill 14 becomes law, companies with 25 to 49 workers will be required to conduct all business in French. The bill also discourages French speakers from taking English classes by giving registration priority to anglophones.

While the future of Bill 14 is unknown, Canada remains a society that is defined by "us" and "them"; a divided, bilingual nation where alienation trumps assimilation.

### English-Only at Winnipeg Hospital

This March, staff at the Health Sciences Centre in Winnipeg received a memo reminding them of the policy that requires workers to speak English on duty.

"It is critical. We received complaints from patients and patients' families and often other co-workers about the feeling of exclusivity when you're not speaking in a language everyone can understand,"

said Karen Clearwater of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

In a statement released by the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, vice chair Yvonne Peters said "we would not have any concerns, "if the hospital can prove that this policy is essential for the workplace. Since the policy has been in effect, all language complaints to the Manitoba Human Rights Commission have been thrown out.

# 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](http://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.

*“Under the conditions that we have today, I think it is good and proper to have one language, which would be English, for all legal matters at the national level.”*

- Ret. Congressman Ron Paul

Keep up the good work. Here is my donation:

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