

THE PROENGLISH Advocate

ProEnglish Files FOIA Request on Obamacare Translators

On October 1, 2013 the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") went into effect across the nation. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the translation services they are providing in the new government program. During an interview on MSNBC, Secretary Sebelius said that translators were available in 150 different languages for applicants.

Sec. Sebelius stated, "There's also a call center. People can call on the phone. And we have translators available in up to 150 languages to answer questions, help people understand some of the terminology."

As Sec. Sebelius announced this was happening, the administration unveiled a website for Obamacare entirely in Spanish.

This Spanish-language website -- www.cuidadodesalud.gov -- has been plagued with problems since its launch. Many find the Spanish-language website as unworkable as the English-language website. Additionally, the Spanish-language website is filled with common mistranslations, according to the Associated Press.



Secretary of HHS Kathleen Sebelius

In response to this, ProEnglish filed a "Freedom of Information Act" request with HHS to determine the cost of these translations for the American taxpayer. The ProEnglish FOIA request attracted media attention, including the Washington Times newspaper, which quoted Executive Director Robert Vandervoort saying:

"We learn that translators in over 150 languages were commissioned by HHS for the rollout as well as for a Spanish-language website which ini-

tially failed to work. What is this costing the taxpayers?" he asked.

"Why is President Obama spending whopping amounts of taxpayer dollars promoting immigrant dependency and multiculturalism?" Vandervoort added. "Providing foreign language services simply caters to activist-led ethnic interest groups who have a stake in keeping immigrants isolated and alienated, while in the process diluting America's English language heritage."

To date, HHS FOIA officers are slowly responding to our ProEnglish request for translation costs. ProEnglish is pursuing all available remedies to make sure this request is fulfilled. The ProEnglish Advocate will keep you informed with updates on the full cost of Obamacare translators.

"We have translators available in up to 150 languages to answer questions."

– HHS Sec. Kathleen Sebelius

ProEnglish Chairman Corrects Cardinal Dolan in the Wall Street Journal



ProEnglish Chairman Rosalie Porter

In the October 18, 2013 edition of the Wall Street Journal, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York made the claim that the Senate's 2013 comprehensive immigration bill would require participants to learn English. ProEnglish Chairman Rosalie Porter noted the weak English language requirements in the Senate bill and came back with this rebuttal. It was printed in the WSJ six days later:

As a practicing Catholic and an immigrant myself, I took interest in Cardinal Timothy Dolan's "Immigration and the Welcoming Church" (Houses of Worship, Oct. 18). However, he is misinformed regarding the immigration bill passed by the Senate. Cardinal Dolan says it would "require participants

to learn English" to attain citizenship, but this has been federal law for legal immigrants since 1907.

S. 744 contains no requirement for illegal immigrants to learn English in order to get work permits or amnesty. Their work permits can be renewed indefinitely. They only have to show some knowledge of English if they apply for green cards after 10-and-a-half years of residency.

Cardinal Dolan refers to "barriers to immersion," yet the Senate bill works against immigrant assimilation. If the Senate bill becomes law, the reverse of what the cardinal predicts will occur. Demands for foreign-language government services will increase and divide the U.S. into separate linguistic enclaves, moving us further away from *e pluribus unum* ("from many, one").

Rosalie P. Porter
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In Congress

New Bill Expands Attorney General's Power to Enforce Non-English Voting

Eighteen-term Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) has made preserving the federal mandate to produce bilingual voter ballots one of his career's top priorities. In fact, he just introduced a new bill to give controversial U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder expanded powers to monitor polling places and search for discrimination against "language minorities" seeking to vote in their native tongue.

Introduced in January, nine bipartisan House Members—four Republicans and five Democrats—joined Rep. Sensenbrenner in sponsoring the legislation. The bill, designated as H.R. 3899, seeks to amend the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to reinstate federal scrutiny over state elections after the Supreme Court recently declared part of the law unconstitutional.

In June 2013, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress could not use discrimination in voting in the

South from four decades ago to single out states for special federal scrutiny.

The proposed legislation aims to reinstate those federal powers to monitor elections in search of discrimination against minority voting. However, the new bill is dangerous as it explicitly states it seeks to protect the voting rights of minority groups only, including language minorities, such as Spanish speakers and those who speak Asian languages. The bill does nothing to protect reverse discrimination against English speaking voters.

In fact, H.R. 3899 will give the Department of Justice the authority to enter polling places to monitor the use of foreign language election materials. There

are 248 counties across the U.S. that are required by the Census Bureau to provide voter ballots in foreign languages, even though only U.S. citizens are allowed to vote and English proficiency is required to become a naturalized citizen.



Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner

ProEnglish News

ProEnglish Sponsors "FOIA for Patriots" workshop



Lisette Garcia

In January, ProEnglish sponsored a seminar on techniques and strategies for filing "Freedom of Information Act" (FOIA) requests. The seminar was held at ProEnglish offices and attorney Lisette Garcia, director of the FOIA Resources Center, provided training.

Other patriotic organizations and individuals, who braved a snowy and icy day to learn more about FOIA work, attended the

seminar. Prior to law school, Ms. Garcia was a journalist at the Miami Herald, the Kansas City Star, and the Associated Press. She stated, "It is a privilege to help Americans effectively assert their right to access government records."

"Our democracy only operates well under the strictest supervision," Ms. Garcia added. "I am very encouraged to see citizens engaging in greater oversight."

Ms. Garcia is also advising ProEnglish on our FOIA request seeking Obamacare translations costs (see cover story for details).



In the Courts



Terri Bennett Legal Defense Fund Launched

ProEnglish is actively defending an Arizona nursing student in court (see ProEnglish Advocate, October 2013 issue). Last May, Terri Bennett was suspended from Pima Community College (PCC) simply for requesting her fellow students speak English in the classroom.

“It is a shame that an American citizen could be treated so terribly by a college for simply requesting her classmates speak in English,” said Executive Director Robert Vandervoort. “PCC is practicing the worst kind of multicultural bigotry and we intend to stop them.”



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

Arizona is one of the 31 states in America that has an official English law. Since the community college is a state school, PCC is in violation of the state constitution for not maintaining English-in-the-classroom.

With ProEnglish’s support, Ms. Bennett is suing PCC in Arizona state court. The school, however, is dragging its heels and denying any wrongdoing on its part.

ProEnglish has launched the Terri Bennett Legal Defense Fund to continue support for her cause. Money raised will be used to pay the legal bills in our lawsuit and help insure an important victory for official English in the courts.

To find out more about Terri Bennett’s case and her legal defense fund, go to www.pro-english.org

Around the Nation



Many Peoples, One Language



A ProEnglish supporter spotted this poster (left) on display at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. The Cleveland Board of Education made it in 1917 under their “Americanization Committee.”

The poster advertises free classes to learn English in six different languages: Italian, Hungarian, Slovenian, Polish, Yiddish, and English. This was in response to large waves of turn-of-the-century immigration coming from Europe.

In that era, America’s civic leaders were all in agreement that new immigrants should assimilate and learn English. Shouldn’t our civic leaders be saying the same thing today?

Around the Nation



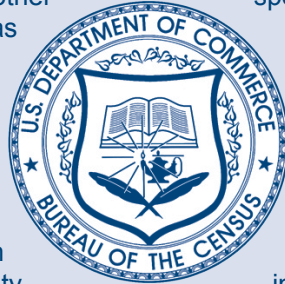
New Census Statistics Show Decline of English-Speaking

Every two years, the U.S. Census Bureau collects data from the American Community Survey, a more detailed version of the Census form that measures the U.S. population's language abilities and usage. The most recent statistic from the 2011 survey showed that non-English language speaking in the home—that is, using a language other than English as the primary language—has nearly tripled since 1980.

In 1980, 23 million U.S. residents reported speaking a language other than English at home. Fast forward thirty years later to 2011, and now 60.6 million people in the U.S. are using a foreign tongue as their primary language. Twenty-two percent of the 60 million report speaking English “not well” or “not at all.” Almost two-thirds (37.6 million)—speak Spanish, up from only 11 million in 1980.

Speaking a language other than English in the home is a trend no longer reserved largely to border states like Texas and California. In 2011, New Jer-

sey boasted the fourth-highest percentage—almost one-third—of its residents who reported speaking a language other than English at home, with over 6 percent reporting that they spoke no English at all. Chinese is the second most widely spoken foreign language in the U.S., with nearly 2.9 million speakers in 2011.



While Spanish and Asian-Pacific languages have been experiencing sharp increases in usage over the past few decades, European languages are fading throughout the United States. For instance, there are now half as many Italian speakers in the U.S. as there were in 1980. Other languages such as German, Hungarian, French, Greek, Yiddish, and Polish are also experiencing drop offs, due largely in part to the tradition of European immigrants adopting English as their sole primary language, whereas today's immigrants, hailing largely from Asia, Mexico, and South and Central America, are retaining their native tongue and using English sparingly, if at all.

STUDY: Countries with Better English Have Better Economies

Have you heard the news? The social scientists at Harvard Business Review just released a study confirming what so many in the official English movement have been arguing for the past thirty years—that countries with better English have better economies. But, the researchers uncovered many more findings about the benefit of making English the primary language of a nation and encouraging proficiency among its residents.

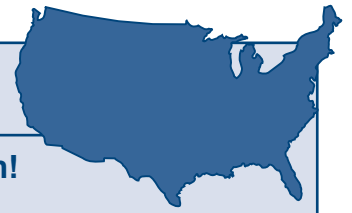
Referring to the mastering of the English language as “economic necessity,” the researchers found a direct correlation between the English skills of a population and the economic performance of that country. Measuring indicators such as the Gross National Income (GNI) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Review saw that a rise in English proficiency was connected with a rise in per capita income. They found that English proficiency drives up salaries, which in turn allows individuals to apply for better

jobs and to raise their standards of living and quality of life. Among the highest-ranking nations on the English Proficiency Index was Sweden, which took the top spot for the last two years.

Of course, we see this relationship replicated in the U.S. Census statistics, where those who report being able to speak English “well” or “very well” earn two to three times as much as those who report lower degrees of English proficiency.

The only mistake made by the researchers was their implication that English was the official language of the United States, and thus, that its residents naturally speak the lingua franca of global business. Nevertheless, the United States should take a lesson from this study and put its resources toward English language learning and preservation, rather than multiculturalism and unlimited translations.

Around the Nation



Democrat from California Calls for a Common Language: English!



A Democratic activist from California made a forceful call for English as our common language in a Los Angeles city paper. In discussing the Spanish-version of California's health exchange website, Ms. Rosemary Jenkins posed the question: "What other country is that accommodating to their foreign-born residents or visitors?" She cited examples of personal friends of hers who have been in America for 40-50 years and don't speak a word of English, and also talked about examples of anti-Americanism from students in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes she had previously taught.

ESL Classes in Virginia County Face Shortages as Non-English Speakers Increase

Immigration has been running steady in Fairfax County, Virginia for the last half-decade or so, and not surprisingly, the county cannot meet demands for English as a Second Language (ESL) classes. The foreign-born population in the county has more than doubled since 2009, and now sits at just under 30%, or two-and-a-half times the



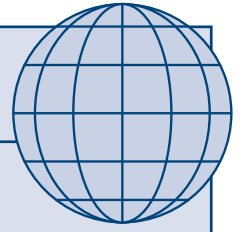
national average. In the past, Fairfax County has been known for having one of the most excellent public school systems in the nation. Today, however, it is facing a \$140 million budget shortfall that can be attributed in large part to the foreign-born population surge and its growing ESL needs.

Texas Principal Takes Stand for English in Class, Gets Put on Leave

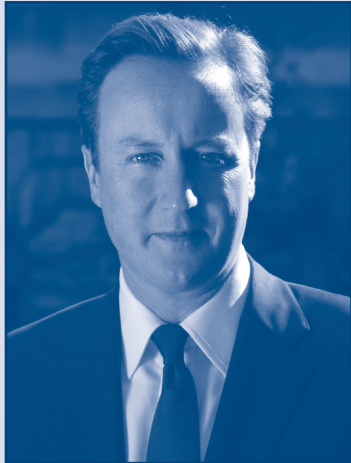


A middle school principal in Hempstead, Texas banned the speaking of Spanish by students while in class, and was placed on paid leave for her troubles. The principal of Hempstead Middle School, Amy Lacey, enacted the ban on November 12 over the school's loudspeaker. More than 50% of the approximately 330 students at the school are Hispanic.

Around the World



UK to Migrants: Speak English or Lose Benefits!



British Prime Minister David Cameron

In late 2013, the British government announced that it would be instituting a new, more rigorous series of tests for migrants to the United Kingdom (UK). The new tests, which include a more thorough check on immigrants' fluency in English, were designed as a deterrent to potential "benefit tourists," that is, migrants moving to the UK for the sole purpose of enrolling for welfare benefits.

All overseas nationals, regardless of whether or not they are from European Union (EU) countries or if they are Britons returning after living abroad, will be subject to the stricter language tests. The European Commission alleges that the more rigorous tests are "discriminatory"

against EU nationals who seek public assistance. The commission is taking the British government to court as a result.

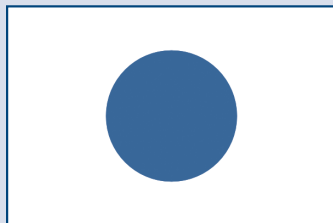
Nevertheless, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles agrees that immigrants to the UK must learn English. In his column recently published in The Telegraph, Pickles writes, "A community of broken English is no community at all. That's why we're taking action." He continued, "Councils have wasted far too much money on the automatic translating of documents into dozens of languages, giving the impression that there is neither incentive nor urgency to learn English. Teaching, not translating, is common sense."

The new testing is already underway in England, Wales, and Scotland.

"A community of broken English is no community at all. That's why we're taking action."

– Eric Pickles

Japanese Companies Adopt English as Official Language of Global Operations



Within months of each other, two well-known Japanese companies instituted English as the official language of their global meetings and operations. The carmaker, Honda Motor Co., followed in Tokyo-based tire maker Bridgestone Corporation's steps in implementing the language policy in 2013.

Bridgestone's Chief Executive Officer Masaaki Tsuya found that presentations and discussions went much smoother after its top executives be-

gan conducting some of their meetings in English instead of Japanese.

"The decision is part of the company's mid-term plan to become 'truly global,'" said Tsuya. "We think this is the right way to go, especially for our young employees, we're going to tell them that English is a must if they want to move up the ladder."

Both companies are following the model set by yet another Japanese car company, Nissan, over a decade ago.

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.

“The gift of a common tongue is a priceless inheritance.”

– Winston Churchill

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