



California Referendum Passage Would 'Delete' English Immersion

"California voters should fully inform themselves about the mis-named 'Education for a Global Economy Initiative' that will be on their ballot this November," says ProEnglish Chairwoman Dr. Rosalie P. Porter. "The state's current English immersion law gives school children the opportunity to learn English quickly, move into mainstream classrooms and be successful in the larger community. Passage would seriously weaken the English teaching lessons and bring back multilingual education, a program proven to be a failure in California and other states." The "Education for Global Economy" bill says it will give parents the choice to enroll their children in bilingual education. That choice is already available to parents under current law, but few parents want it (87% of English Learners are in English Immersion classrooms). The crucial part of existing law is the requirement that kids be given intensive, special English language instruction from the first day of school.

Richard Munro, a California high school teacher and member of ProEnglish's Advisory Board, warns that passage of 1174 would remove English immersion requirements. "It would reopen the door to expensive bilingual education. Says Munro:

"Proponents claim 'English instruction programs will be maintained.' But what does that mean? Yes, English is a requirement for high school graduation. Will English immersion and literacy programs continue to be funded and maintained? If funding is shifted to 'bilingual education,' our students in English teaching programs will suffer."



Let's note this important statement by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer in 2009 when he reaffirmed: "...the rights of Spanish-speaking children to learn English in order to live their lives in a country where English is the predominant language," and cited, "documented academic support for the view that Structured English Immersion is significantly more effective than bilingual education." Supporters of 1174 say they really want education in many languages for today's students to do well in the global economy, but the key part of the legislation is to delete the English immersion requirement. Reducing funding from these classes will weaken English teaching programs and ultimately hurt students.

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ProEnglish on Capitol Hill

Floor Remarks Delivered by Congressman Doug Collins on February 3, 2016



Congressman Doug Collins (R-GA) Touts Official English

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 997—the English Language Unity Act—introduced by my friend Mr. King from Iowa. I’m a proud cosponsor of this important and commonsense bill. The English Language Unity Act establishes English as the official language of the United States, requires all official functions of the United States to be conducted in English, and establishes a uniform language requirement for naturalization.

A common language creates a shared bond. It strengthens our shared cultural fabric and cultural identity.

English as the official language does not mean other languages cannot be spoken. It simply recognizes that officially we speak the language already spoken and shared by the vast majority of this country. Failure to have a national language can create costly and burdensome translation requirements and can create legal confusion. It can also hinder new

citizens from assimilating quickly.

The diversity of the United States is one of our strengths. We should continue to celebrate the many cultures that make up our melting pot. This great country gives us the freedom to share our differences. But at the end of the day, we are one nation and one people. And as one nation, we should speak with one tongue when conducting official business.

And with that, I would encourage my colleagues to support the English Language Unity Act.

Around the Nation



English Amendment Fails in Georgia Legislature

“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to provide that English is the official language of the State of Georgia?” – Proposed statewide ballot question for the November election contained in SR 675 sponsored by state Sen. Josh McKoon, R-Columbus.

Last December, a poll conducted by the Atlanta-based Rosetta Stone Communications showed a whopping 76 percent bipartisan public approval rate for amending the state constitution to make English the official language of government.

Unfortunately, as the 2016 Georgia General Assembly concluded, voters in the Peach State were not allowed to answer the above ballot question.

Thanks to the efforts of sponsoring Senator McKoon and his allies -- and especially backing from the Senate’s presiding officer Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and President Pro Tem David Shafer, R-Duluth—the Senate passed Senate Resolution 675. Proponents emphasized that it would greatly strengthen the official English-in-government statute already in place, since the present law has serious loopholes. A major problem is that Georgia administers the written driver’s license test in 11 languages— a huge public safety issue. Furthermore, taxpayers underwrite untold millions of dollars in taxpayer money on official document translations.

While enshrining English the official language of Georgia government, S.R. 675 also protected non-English speakers in public health, safety and legal proceedings. There were also common-sense exceptions to the law relating to international trade and tourism.

As the legislative session wound down, S.R. 675 was killed in the Republican-controlled House committee process by Judiciary Chairman Wendell Willard, R-Sandy Springs, with the approval of House Speaker David Ralston, R-Blue Ridge. Willard told ProEnglish Board member Phil Kent that the amendment

was “unnecessary.” “The House leadership buckled because of pressure from nervous Chamber of Commerce types and fear of being attacked by the vocal pro-multilingual lobby and its media allies,” Kent said.

Proponents of the constitutional amendment vow to be back for the next legislative session,” Kent says.

Sam Pimm Named ProEnglish Executive Director

Sam Pimm has been named by the Board of Directors as the new executive director of ProEnglish. He began his duties on June 1, replacing Robert Vandervoort. “Sam has a varied political and business background as well as an impressive skill set that will be of great benefit to our organization,” says ProEnglish Board Chairman Dr. Rosalie P. Porter.

“For most of the past 15 years, Sam has been managing political campaigns, including those for U.S. Senate, governor and Congress. He is also an entrepreneur who co-founded a successful enterprise which grew to four locations and employed numerous workers,” Porter notes.

Last year Pimm was named as the executive director of “The 2016 Committee Super PAC” supporting Dr. Ben Carson for the Republican presidential nomination. In the early 1980s, he served as the executive director of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) and, after that, was the political action committee director for the National Association of Wholesalers, a major trade association.

He graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. majoring in American Government and resides in Arlington, Va.

ProEnglish on Capitol Hill

ProEnglish Interviews Congressman Steve King



ProEnglish went to Capitol Hill and our Government Relations Director Dan Carter interviewed Congressman Steve King (R-IA) about his sponsorship of the Official English bill (H.R. 997). The following remarks are excerpted from the interview.



Carter: Congressman, you're known not only on the Hill and in Washington. I mention your name and people immediately smile and say he's been really out in front [on this issue]. But also obviously back in Iowa. What got you started on this whole concept of making English our official language? What was the starting point for you?

Congressman King: I remember the incident, and it would be October 10th, 1996. I was a candidate for state Senate, and Governor Terry Branstad came out to do an event with me at a shelter house at Yellow Smoke Park, Denison, Iowa. He gave his speech and I saw that it was all rousing [applause] for that. When it was time for me to give my speech, I just ranged all over the map; I talked about things as they would come to my mind. There were about 100 people or maybe a few more. When I got to this part that I did not really plan on saying, I said I believe that English should be the official language of the state of Iowa. It brought the house down. So, I realized that I had touched a nerve with something I'd believed for a long time.

But there was a newspaper reporter, an editorial writer, sitting in the back of the room and he decided to write a critical article about me the next day. You know how it goes: racist, bigot, xenophobe – all these names. So then I had to defend myself, and twice a week they would write an attack on me, and I would always respond and defend myself. I knew that when I got to the state Senate I needed to carry that bill and establish it for the state of Iowa. It took six years to establish English as the official language of Iowa, and now there are 31 states that have it.

Carter: 32. We just added West Virginia.

Congressman King: Well that is good news to me! I didn't see that come through. I'll have to congratulate those folks from almost heaven. Iowa is heaven, by the way.

Carter: ...The other thing I mention – and you might want to speak to this, Congressman – is the cost [of foreign language translation]. Ten years ago, GAO said it was two billion a year. We don't know. We haven't had a recent study, unfortunately. What are your thoughts about the cost?

Congressman King: We know it's in the billions. It's an extra cost, and I pay attention to the cost of this. I saw a number that said training people how to use food stamps in foreign languages costs 1.86 million dollars. But you could buy a lot of food with 1.86 million. That's a tiny little piece of the much broader bill due to not having English as the official language. (*cont. on page 5*)

But I focus on what happens to us culturally. What happens to America? The common language is the most powerful unifying force known throughout all of history. It's more powerful than religion itself, more powerful than a common race or ethnicity, or just living on a common piece of real estate. If people can communicate with each other, you can find the commonality of everything else. That's what this country is.

I grew up in an era where there was much focus on assimilation. My grandmother came over from Germany and raised six sons and a daughter. My father was third in line out of those seven. When he went to school on his first day of kindergarten, he was speaking only German and it must have been very confusing for him to go to school that day. But when he came home and he said 'Hello' to his mother in German, she turned to him and she said, 'speaking German in this household is for you from now on *verboten*. I came here to be an American, and you will go to school and learn English and you will bring it home and you will teach it to me.'

To read the full transcript and watch the video of the interview, go to www.proenglish.org

ProEnglish Attends Road to Majority Conference

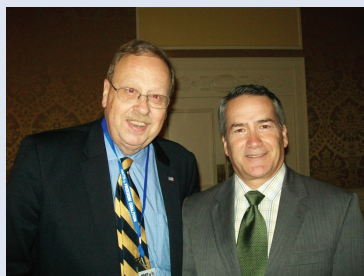
ProEnglish attended the Faith & Freedom Coalitions' Road to Majority Conference on June 9-11th in Washington, DC. Executive Director Sam Pimm and Government Relations Director Dan Carter were on hand to educate attendees on Official English



Senator David Perdue of Georgia (Left)
with ProEnglish Government Relations
Director Dan Carter (Right)



Senator Jeff Sessions of Alabama (Left)
with ProEnglish Government Relations
Director Dan Carter (Right)



ProEnglish Government Relations
Director Dan Carter (Left) with
Congressman Jody Hice of Georgia



Congressman Louie Gohmert of Texas
(Left) with ProEnglish Government
Relations Director Dan Carter (Right)

Official English at Work & School

Business Owner Intimidated out of English-on-the-job policy by EEOC

A southside Milwaukee, Wisconsin, company that simply wanted to conduct its business in English-- which every citizen is required to learn-- endured unnecessary harassment in May. The owner of Leon's Frozen Custard, Ron Schneider, initially said his business wasn't a multi-lingual "United Nations" and wanted everyday employee-customer business to be conducted in English. Yet he was threatened with boycotts by radical groups and one even threatened to call for a federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) investigation.

"It is a sad day in America that Mr. Schneider had to succumb to threats and is allowing other languages to be spoken, although he prefers that people order in English and that his employees talk to each other in English," ProEnglish Executive Director Sam Pimm says. "The group calling for the federal probe falsely accused the business of violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on 'national origin.'"

In over 40 years of court cases there has not been a single ruling supporting the EEOC's contention the language equals national origin notion. To cite just one example, a few years ago the EEOC settled its lawsuit against the Salvation Army that left the Army's English-

on-the-job policy intact. The courts have long recognized an employer's right to set conditions of employment, including what employees can say on the job-- a right, by the way protected by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

New York City Schools Grapple with Non-English Speakers

A recent *New York Times* headline read: "Schools Struggle to Comply With New Rules for Students Learning English." The accompanying article focused initially on Public School 160 in Borough Park, Brooklyn, where three teachers were trying to keep up with 28 students-- 21 of whom were struggling to learn English.

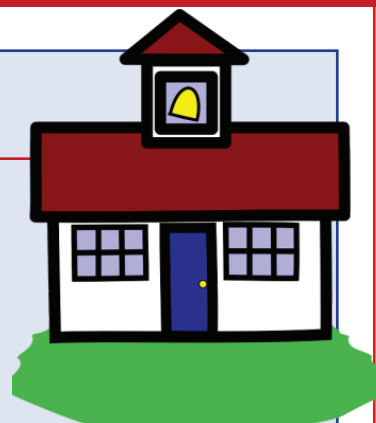
The real struggle outlined in the article, though, involves the administrators and teachers trying to comply with new New York state rules covering everything from identifying non-English speaking students to what kinds of teachers they are entitled to. "I'm telling you, the whole city is out of compliance," a United Federation of Teachers official was quoted as saying in the article. "It's like the Wild West out there."

Another teachers' union official said almost every city school needs to hire one or two teachers-- which would put the "required" number of bilingual or multilingual teachers in the

"thousands" in order to cope with the influx of non-English speakers.

New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio's administration has started 88 bilingual programs and hopes to offer at least 50 more in the fall of 2017. Furthermore, the article said the city plans to spend \$40 million to meet the new requirements in the next school year.

The new regulations were an attempt to improve the academic standing of students learning English "who are far behind their peers," the *Times* piece reported. Statewide, only 34 percent of them graduate on time, less than half the rate for those who already speak the language.



Back Door Assault on Teaching English to Immigrant Children in Massachusetts

A bill benignly titled the Language Opportunities for Our Kids (LOOK) by state Rep. Jeffrey Sanchez (D-Jamaica Plains) is a Trojan Horse designed to remove the requirement that non-English speaking children be taught English as rapidly and effectively as possible. In the guise of promoting “choice” and “flexibility,” ProEnglish Chairwoman Dr. Rosalie P. Porter says LOOK would bring back the program that has failed English learners for decades: Transitional Bilingual Education.

“There are practical stumbling blocks to making all kids multilingual: a short school day and school year – where will the time come from to teach high level literacy in more than one language? Teach less math? Cancel art and music? Only charter schools have solved this problem by electing to lengthen the school day for greater ‘time-on-task,’ the greatest single guarantor of better learning.

The Sanchez bill is mainly focused on weakening the Structured English Immersion law, passed by 68% of the vote in a 2002 referendum. In fact, the Massachusetts’ Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has yet to publish any reports on the progress of English Learners-- a serious dereliction. The law requires testing and record-keeping—but the DESE has not informed Bay State legislators when English Learners master the language.



ProEnglish Chairwoman Rosalie P. Porter (in pink) defends Structured English Immersion in the Bay State

Sanchez gave one small nugget of information on student achievement at a panel discussion that included Dr. Porter on WGBH on June 15. He said the high school graduation rate for former English Learners is about 65%, compared with about 85% for English speakers. Certainly schools must do more to further narrow the achievement gap, but the present rate of high school completion is higher than in the pre-2002 era. Research in California, Arizona, and Texas has documented, over and over, that early mastery of English for English Learners leads to the highest levels of school success in later years.

Dr. Porter hopes there is legislative support for keeping the current law and not supporting LOOK. She concludes: “Why fix what ain’t broke?”

The ProEnglish Advocate

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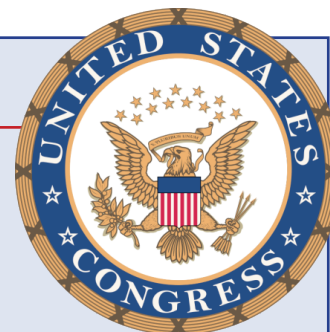
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In Congress

House Majority Whip Rep. Steve Scalise Becomes Cosponsor of English Language Unity Act



Congressman Steve
Scalise of Louisiana

ProEnglish would especially like to thank House Majority Whip Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA) for cosponsoring the English Language Unity Act (H.R. 997). HR 997 now has 90 cosponsors plus the original sponsor Rep. Steve King for a total of 91 supporters of the bill. If enacted, the English Language Unity Act would make English the official language of the Federal Government.

Keep up the good work. Here is my donation:

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