



THE PROENGLISH Advocate

ProEnglish Gears Up For A Very Busy 2022



Even with all of the great challenges that have been posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, variants, vaccination and mask mandates, and shutdowns, ProEnglish is off to a rapid start in the new, mid-term election year of 2022 as we engage the offices of several senators and representatives on Capitol Hill in an effort to continue to build support for H.R. 997 and S. 678, The English Language Unity Act, in the 117th Congress.

The English Language Unity Act designates English as the nation's official language of governmental operations and establishes a uniform language requirement for the citizen naturalization process.

The passage of official English legislation in H.R. 997 and S. 678 will save Americans billions of dollars in current, government-mandated translation and interpretation costs and will encourage cultural and linguistic integration by new arrivals to our nation.

ProEnglish already has been engaging several members of Congress, in both the House and Senate, in order to advocate for their cosponsorship of the English Language Unity Act.

ProEnglish is working with Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) in order to attempt to include the English Language Unity Act as an amendment in a larger budget or immigration bill.

ProEnglish also is urging senators on Capitol Hill to support the RAISE Act, which will establish a point-based system that will help select skilled immigrants who have the most to offer to this nation, and immigrant applicants will earn points in part based on their proficiency in English.

As well, ProEnglish is urging representatives to support the COST Act, which is a very important cost oversight bill, and which likely will show American taxpayers the exorbitant costs that they are paying for multilingual translation services provided by the Federal Government, including the 2020 United States Census, which included some Census materials available in as many as 59 non-English languages.

When you support ProEnglish in 2022, you partner alongside us as we engage the 117th Congress, and as we seek to pass H.R. 997, S. 678, the RAISE Act, and the COST Act.

There is very much to do on behalf of official English in this new, mid-term election year of 2022, and we are very grateful to you for your support of ProEnglish!

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Puerto Rico Statehood Bill Stalls In Congress



The Puerto Rico Statehood Admission Act has been filed in both the U.S. Senate (S.780) and the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R.1522); however, the bill has not gained any traction to date in Congress.

In the U.S. Senate, the bill has only picked up 5 cosponsors to date. The only action taken on the bill in the U.S. Senate was when the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources back on March 16, 2021. As well, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) stands opposed to the bill, and has gone on record by stating, “I don’t agree with them, I’m not going to support their [Puerto Rico] statehood bill.”

In the U.S. House, nothing has been done on the bill since June 16, 2021, when hearings were held by the Committee on Natural Resources. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (“AOC”) has not cosponsored the Puerto Rico statehood bill to date, and she has stated that she prefers the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act, a bill that she has introduced in the House, and which proposes creating a “status convention” made up of delegates elected by Puerto Rican voters, and who would be responsible for coming up with long-term solutions for the island’s territorial status, be it statehood, independence, or any other options beyond its current territorial arrangement.

Puerto Rico barely approved its November, 2020, statehood referendum by a vote of just 52%-48%. The non-binding referendum showed that only a very slim majority of Puerto Ricans support statehood at this time. This was the 6th time that Puerto Ricans had a choice to make on statehood. This recent referendum about statehood for Puerto Rico, as well as prior bills regarding statehood for Puerto Rico, all fail to address the vital question about official English on the island.

Puerto Rico is mired in a deep financial crisis after the island declared a type of bankruptcy, and currently it is under the supervision of an oversight board. Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens but cannot vote for President. Statehood would grant Puerto Rico two senators and probably four or five representatives.

ProEnglish Board of Directors Chair Dr. Rosalie Porter has stated that “any legislative attempt by the island to become the 51st state must stipulate that English become its primary official language of the government, courts, and school system.”

Dr. Porter added: “Let’s remember that the 2011 recommendations from President Barack Obama’s Task Force on Puerto Rico’s Status says that if the U.S. commonwealth ever applies for statehood, Congress has ultimate authority over admission and English must play a central role in the daily life of the island. At a minimum, we believe a large majority must become fluent in English for statehood to be even considered.”

Accepting Puerto Rico as a new state, or any other new classification, without a specific designation of English as the primary official language of the island, would automatically transform the United States into a bilingual nation. ProEnglish believes that the U.S. should look to Canada’s experience as a bilingual nation in order to remind us of the potential risks and consequences involved, including sharp cultural and political divisions and much higher costs for government-mandated translation and interpretation services.

It will be extremely expensive for U.S. taxpayers if Puerto Rico becomes a new state in the union. This new economic burden, combined with no current demand or stipulation that English become the primary official language of the government, courts, and school system on the island, all serve to make Puerto Rico’s statehood bid a very risky proposition at the present time.

Sen. John Boozman Is Latest Cosponsor Of The English Language Unity Act



Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) is the latest cosponsor of S.678, the English Language Unity Act, in the United States Senate. Along with Sen. James Inhofe’s (R-OK) main sponsorship of S.678 in the 117th Congress, the following members of the U.S. Senate all have joined Sen. Boozman as cosponsors of the bill: Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND); Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD); Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS); Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS); Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN); Sen. John Boozman (R-AR).

The English Language Unity Act has been filed to “declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress’ powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution.”

The passage of official English legislation in S.678 in the U.S. Senate, as well as in H.R.997 in the U.S. House, will save Americans billions of dollars in current, government-mandated translation and interpretation costs, and also will encourage cultural and linguistic integration by new arrivals to our nation.



Allentown Votes Against Removing English As Official Language

The city of Allentown, PA, voted not to remove English as its official language in a referendum ballot question during the 2021 elections.

Paragraph B of Section 101 of the Allentown Home Rule Charter states, “English shall be the official language of the City of Allentown and the language in which City business shall be conducted...”

6,695 voted against removing English as Allentown’s official language, while over 3,000 voted in favor of its removal.

A city council ordinance established English as Allentown’s official language in 1995.

Townhall Columnist Lauds English As Our Common Tongue

Townhall columnist Jeff Jacoby lauded English as our common tongue here in the United States.



Jacoby cited his own father, an immigrant from Czechoslovakia, as an example of someone who made learning English one of his first priorities when he arrived in this nation.

Jacoby also noted the Boston Globe report that stated, “Learning English is arguably the most valuable skill immigrants can acquire after they arrive in the United States.”

Jacoby further noted a Pew Research Center study that found that more than 90% of United States residents “voice the view that to be truly American it is very or somewhat important that a person speak English.”

“There is no disputing that English is America’s common tongue,” Jacoby observed.

Boston Globe Report Says Immigrants Must Learn English

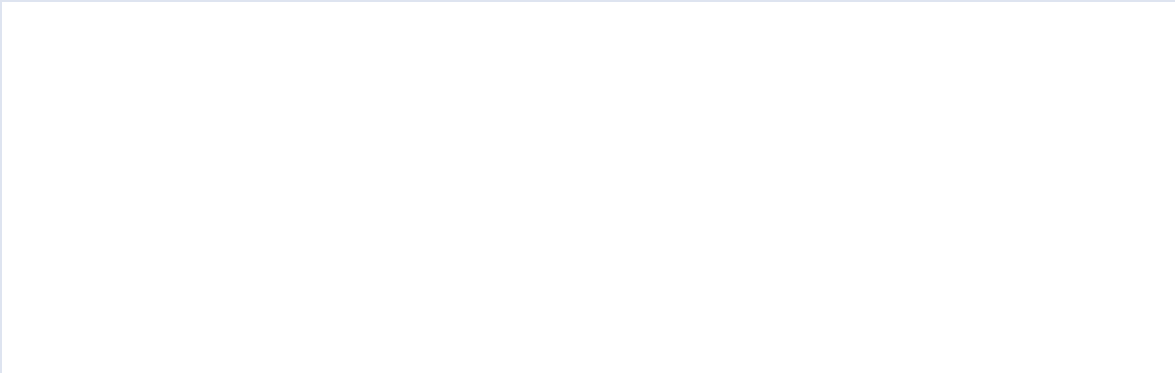


A recent report in the Boston Globe examined the impact of learning English on the income of immigrants, and Globe journalist Katie Johnston reported, “Learning English is arguably the most valuable skill immigrants can acquire after they arrive in the United States.”

Johnston cited a recent study in Massachusetts conducted by the Economic Mobility Corporation. The study covered 800 immigrants, and the findings concluded that the annual income of immigrants who studied English was thousands of dollars higher than that of those who

did not, and their earnings grew at a faster rate. One of the study’s co-authors called the results “absolutely stunning.”

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“We have but one flag; we must also learn one language, and that language is English.”

- President Theodore Roosevelt

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