



# THE PROENGLISH Advocate

## Congressman Robert Aderholt Leads the Effort to Codify English as America's Official Language



Ellen Hamilton-Cotten and Rep. Robert Aderholt

Congressman Robert Aderholt of Alabama's Fourth Congressional District has emerged as a leading champion of legislation to designate English as the official language of the United States. A senior member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Aderholt is the sponsor of H.R. 1772, *Designation of English as the Official Language of the United States Act of 2025*, legislation that would permanently codify English as the language of federal government operations.

First elected to Congress in 1996, Congressman Aderholt is one of the longest-serving members of the Alabama delegation. He serves on the House Committee on Appropriations and chairs the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, which oversees the largest share of non-defense domestic spending. He also serves on the Agriculture and Defense subcommittees. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his commitment to constitutional governance, national unity, and policies that strengthen American civic life.

H.R. 1772 would establish English as the official language for federal government functions while preserving commonsense exceptions related to public safety, law enforcement, public health, and disability accommodations. The bill also affirms the importance of English proficiency in the naturalization process, reinforcing the principle that a shared language supports full participation in American democracy.

In discussing the purpose of the legislation, Congressman Aderholt has emphasized the historic role English has played in uniting the nation. "America has always been a melting pot of cultures, traditions, and languages," he said. "However, throughout our history, English has remained the common thread uniting us as one nation. By designating English as the official language of the United States, we are reinforcing our commitment to a shared national identity and ensuring clear and effective communication across all levels of government." He further explained that the legislation is not intended to diminish America's cultural heritage, but rather to strengthen the unifying role of English in the democratic process and expand opportunities for civic participation and economic advancement.

In March 2025, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 14224, titled *Designating English as the Official Language of the United States*. While an executive order cannot create permanent law, it marked a significant moment in the national conversation on language policy and underscored the importance of congressional action to secure this policy through statute.

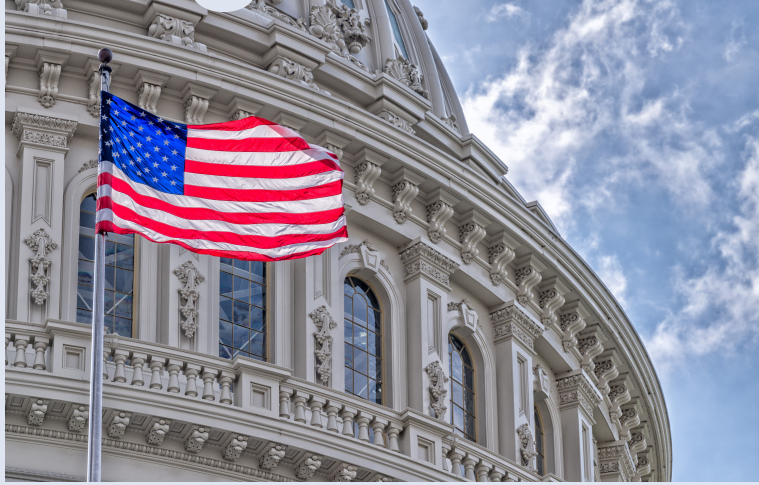
Congressman Aderholt also serves as Chair of the House Values Action Team, a member organization dedicated to promoting families, communities, and religious freedom while building coalitions to advance shared policy goals.

ProEnglish Executive Director Ellen Hamilton-Cotten is working closely with Congressman Aderholt to advance H.R. 1772 and build momentum toward passage. Supporters nationwide are encouraged to contact their members of Congress and urge them to become co-sponsors of this important legislation, helping ensure that English remains America's unifying civic language.

The following information applies to the enclosed package in its entirety. ProEnglish 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 ProEnglish, 20 F Street NW, Suite 715, Washington, DC 20001. The official registration and financial information of ProEnglish 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 registration and financial documents from the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305.



## ProEnglish on the Move!



*Photo by Andrea Izzotti*

ProEnglish continues to build momentum at both the state and national levels as efforts to secure Official English advance across the country.

### State Legislative Activity

Several states are actively considering Official English legislation. In Pennsylvania, House Bill 902, sponsored by Representative Eric Davanzo, has gained support with nine co-sponsors, reflecting growing interest in establishing English as the official language of government operations. In Wisconsin, progress is underway with Assembly Bill 377 and Senate Bill 357, each with nine and ten co-sponsors respectively. These companion bills are sponsored by Representative David Murphy and Senator Andre Jacque, demonstrating coordinated engagement in both legislative chambers.

Beyond active bills, ProEnglish is working strategically in the remaining 16 states that have not yet adopted Official English. Outreach efforts are underway with legislative contacts in Texas, New York, and New Jersey, while additional relationships continue to be cultivated to support future legislative initiatives.

### Federal Legislative Engagement

At the federal level, ProEnglish continues sustained engagement with the House and Senate legislators in support of H.R. 1772 and S. 542. The latter Senate companion bill is sponsored by Senator Bernie Moreno from Ohio. He is also seeking co-sponsors in 2026.

### White House Engagement

Executive Director Ellen Hamilton-Cotten has held multiple visits with White House staff, reinforcing ProEnglish's role as the nation's leading advocate for Official English. ProEnglish is actively pursuing the presentation of a national award to President Trump in recognition of his Executive Order 14224.

### National Visibility and Partnerships

ProEnglish's message continues to reach a national audience through talk radio, social media, direct mail and authored opinion pieces by the Executive Director in print media. ProEnglish also participated in the American Legislative Exchange Council conference, strengthening relationships with state lawmakers nationwide.

Together, these efforts underscore a growing national movement and ProEnglish's continued leadership in advancing English as our shared civic language.

# PROENGLISH SPOTLIGHT

## Truckers, Public Safety and English

“English proficiency is not just a cultural preference. It is a public safety requirement that saves lives on America’s roads.”

*Ellen Hamilton-Cotten*  
Executive Director, ProEnglish



Photo by CK Foto

America’s highways depend on one nonnegotiable standard: commercial drivers must be able to read road signs, communicate with law enforcement, and complete required reports in English. ProEnglish has long highlighted that English proficiency is a core public safety issue, not just a cultural preference.

That concern was underscored in a timely ProEnglish letter to the editor in the Washington Times calling on Congress to codify Official English in government operations, tying language unity to real real world safety consequences.

### Key Federal Trucker Bills to Watch in 2026

#### **S. 2991, Connor’s Law**

Sponsored by Senator Cynthia Lummis, this bill amends Title 49 to strengthen and clarify the requirement that commercial motor vehicle operators meet minimum English proficiency standards. It was introduced October 8, 2025.

#### **H.R. 3608, Connor’s Law (companion bill)**

Sponsored by Representative David Taylor, this House companion was introduced May 23, 2025, and referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, with the goal of reinforcing English language proficiency requirements for CDL holders.

#### **S. 2690, Safer Truckers Act of 2025**

Sponsored by Senator Ashley Moody, this bill would restrict CDLs to U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and individuals authorized to work in the United States in employment that includes commercial driving. It was introduced September 3, 2025, and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

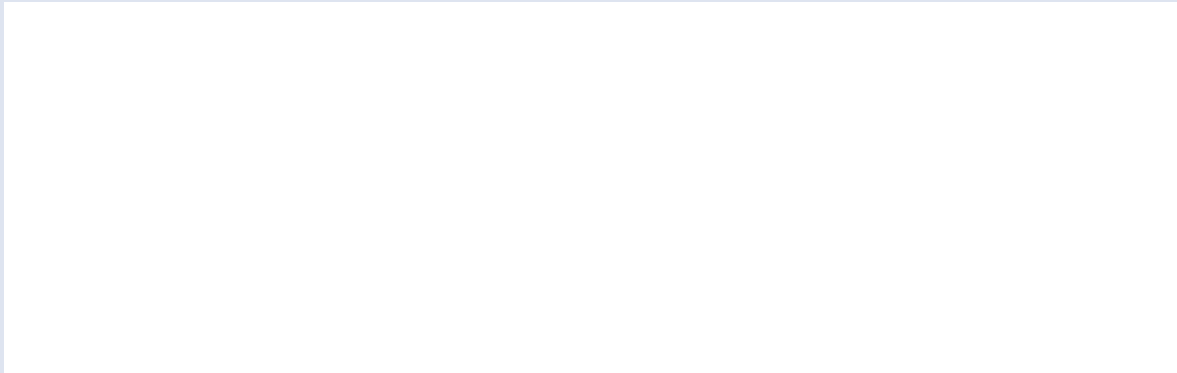
#### **S. 2114, Commercial Motor Vehicle English Proficiency Act**

Sponsored by Senator Roger Marshall, this bill focuses on modifying federal testing requirements tied to commercial motor vehicle operator qualifications. It was introduced June 18, 2025, and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

#### **Why This Matters Now**

Public safety is at stake. When commercial drivers cannot read road signs or communicate with law enforcement, lives are put at risk. Strengthening English proficiency standards is an urgent step Congress can take to protect America’s highways.

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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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