



Legislation in the 115th Congress for Language and Culture

The Biliteracy Education Seal and Teaching Act - H.R. 3716

The bill would create a program to award grants to States to establish a Seal of Biliteracy program to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language.

House Cosponsors

Rep. Brownley, Julia [D-CA-26]
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]
Rep. Cardenas, Tony [D-CA-29]
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]

Rep. Roybal-Allard, Lucille [D-CA-40]
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]

The World Language Advancement and Readiness Act - H.R. 1239

The bill would establish a competitive grant program to support world language education in K-12 schools. The program would be administered by the Secretary of Defense in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Director of National Intelligence, and would provide three-year grants to LEAs to establish, expand, or improve world language programs.

House Cosponsors

Rep. Price, David [D-NC-4]
Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7]
Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-14]
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]

Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]
Rep. Titus, Dina [D-NV-1]
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]
Rep. Serrano, Jose E. [D-NY-15]
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]
Rep. Schneider, Bradley [D-IL-10]

Rep. Gallego, Ruben [D-AZ-7]
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-20]
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]
Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]

The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act - S. 254 / H.R. 1169

The bill would reauthorize through FY2022 both Esther Martinez grant programs administered by the Administration for Native Americans at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) - the Native American Languages Preservation and Maintenance (P&M) grant program and the Esther Martinez Initiative (EMI) grant program. It also decreases the required minimum number of enrollees in Native American language nests funded by the grant program from 10 to 5 enrollees, and in the Native American language survival schools from 15 to 10 enrollees. Finally, the bill increases the maximum possible duration of all Esther Martinez grants from three years to five. The bill was passed in the Senate on November 30, 2017.

Senate Cosponsors

Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]

House Cosponsors

Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]
Rep. O'Halleran, Tom [D-AZ-1]
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]

Rep. Smith, Adam [D-WA-9]
Rep. Cardenas, Tony [D-CA-29]
Rep. Grijalva, Raul M. [D-AZ-3]
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]
Rep. Cole, Tom [R-OK-4]
Rep. Slaughter, Louise [D-NY-25]
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-49]
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]
Rep. Kind, Ron [D-WI-3]
Rep. Norton, Eleanor [D-DC-At Large]

Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]
Rep. Lucas, Frank D. [R-OK-3]
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]
Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]
Rep. Gabbard, Tulsi [D-HI-2]
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]

The Advancing International and Foreign Language Education Act S. 2255 / H.R. 4491

The Advancing International and Foreign Language Act would reauthorize Title VI of the Higher Education Act by extending six currently funded Title VI programs: National Resource Centers, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships, Language Resource Centers, Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs, American Overseas Research Centers, and Centers for International Business Education and Research; and consolidate, streamline and update one funded and four unfunded programs into two reformed programs that are designed to better address 21st century needs through investment in language, culture, business and other areas for students, educators and employers.

Senate Cosponsors

Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]

House Cosponsors

Rep. Price, David [D-NC-4]
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]

The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act – S. 601 / H.R. 4379

The bill would establish a competitive grant program in the Department of Education, for institutions of higher education to encourage the sustainable expansion of study abroad opportunities for undergraduate students in the US. It is named after the late Illinois Senator, Paul Simon, who encouraged Congress to come together to prepare the next generation of Americans with the global knowledge and skills needed for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

Senate Cosponsors

Sen. Durbin, Richard [D-IL]
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

House Cosponsors

Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]
Rep. Evans, Dwight [D-PA-2]
Rep. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]
Rep. Gonzalez, Vicente [D-TX-15]

Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]